

# LINCOLN PACK HOME



WILLARD ROUSE JILLSON



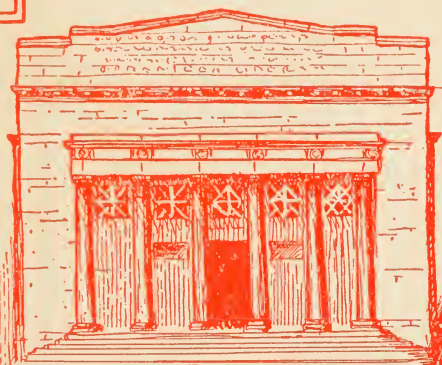


FRANKFORT

# LINCOLN IN THE K



LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE  
THREE MILES SOUTH OF HODGENVILLE



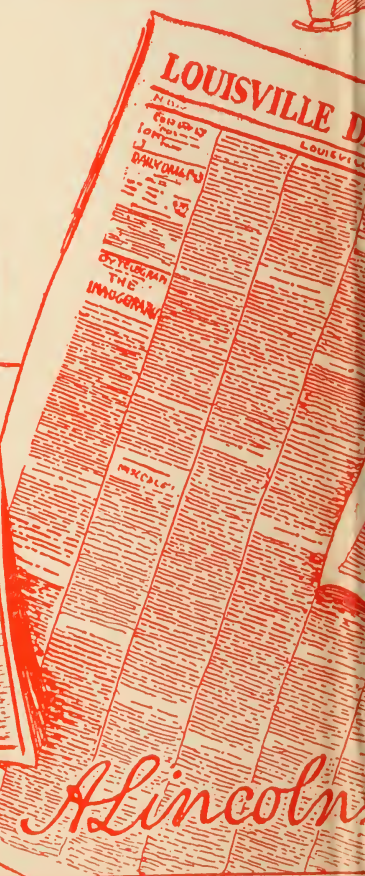
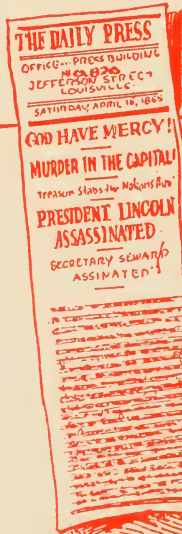
LINCOLN MEMORIAL  
NEAR HODGENVILLE



MORGANFIELD



CLOVERPORT



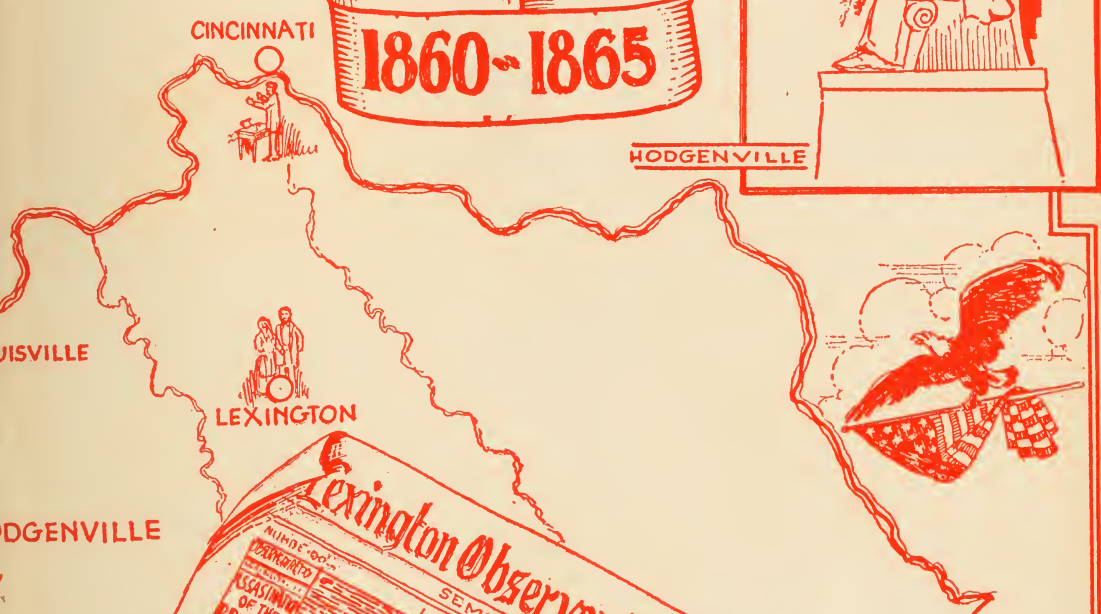
LOUISVILLE

A Lincoln



# KENTUCKY PRESS

1860-1865



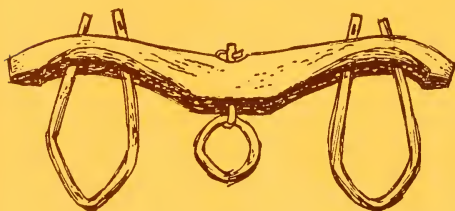
"EMANCIPATOR"



Gribbin

LINCOLN ROOM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
LIBRARY



MEMORIAL

*the Class of 1901*

*founded by*

HARLAN HOYT HORNER

*and*

HENRIETTA CALHOUN HORNER



To


Nels Jansen  
with all good wishes

W. D. Julian

Nov. 5 / 32  
Lexington, Ky.







Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

OTHER BOOKS BY  
DR. WILLARD ROUSE JILLSON

---

*Geology*

Oil and Gas Resources of Kentucky, 1919-1920  
Geology and Coals of Stinking Creek, 1919  
Contributions to Kentucky Geology, 1920  
Economic Papers on Kentucky Geology, 1921  
Production of Eastern Kentucky Crude Oils, 1921  
The Sixth Geological Survey, 1921  
Oil Field Stratigraphy of Kentucky, 1922  
Conservation of Natural Gas in Kentucky, 1922  
Geological Research in Kentucky, 1923  
The Coal Industry in Kentucky, 1922-1924  
Kentucky State Parks, 1924-1927  
New Oil Pools of Kentucky, 1926  
Topography of Kentucky, 1927  
Sketches in Geology, 1928  
Geology and Mineral Resources of Kentucky, 1928  
Oil and Gas in Western Kentucky, 1930  
Geological Survey Affairs, 1930  
The Legrande Oil Pool, 1930  
Geology and Industry, 1931  
Geology of the Deep Wells in Kentucky, 1931  
Oil and Gas in the Bluegrass of Kentucky, 1931  
Natural Gas in Western Kentucky, 1931  
After Thirteen Years, 1931  
The Carlisle Gas Field, 1932  
The Next Oil Pool, 1932

*History*

The Big Sandy Valley, 1923  
The Kentucky Land Grants, 1925  
Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds, 1926  
Filson's Kentucke, 1929-1930  
Tales of the Dark and Bloody Ground, 1930  
The Kentuckie Country, 1931  
Early Kentucky Literature, 1931  
The Ohic Country, 1932  
A Transylvania Trilogy, 1932

*Biography*

Edwin P. Morrow, Kentuckian, 1922  
Cap'n Jim, A Tale of Old Fort Harrod, 1932  
The Boone Narrative, 1932

*Verse*

Songs and Satires, 1920  
Kentuckie: A Colonial Narrative, 1932



# LINCOLN BACK HOME









**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

The Statue at Hodgenville, Kentucky



# L I N C O L N B A C K   H O M E .

Two Episodes in the Career of the  
Great Civil War President  
Mirrored in the Daily  
Kentucky Press  
1860-1865

by

WILLARD ROUSE JILLSON

*"I must bear  
What is ordained with patience, being aware  
Necessity doth front the universe  
With an invincible gesture."*

PROMETHEUS: E. BROWNING

THE TRANSYLVANIA PRESS  
Lexington Kentucky  
1932

FIRST EDITION

500 COPIES

Copyright, 1932, By  
Willard Rouse Jillson

Published in September, 1932

Printed and Bound in  
The United States of America

972.7463

C4J 062

cop. 2

Lincoln

1861

To

WILLIAM HENRY TOWNSEND

*Distinguished Lincoln Scholar*



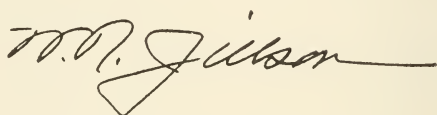


## PREFACE

One need not delve deeply into the great body of Lincolniana, now easily available to the general reader, to find excerpts of one kind or another from the Kentucky press pertaining to America's Civil War President and Martyr. But so scattered and unrelated are these fragmental reprintings of news and editorial opinion that one would scarcely believe them to be parts of a rather complete story of Lincoln's last years, particularly as his acts and utterances affected the people *back home* in his native State, Kentucky. Yet such is the case and the composite narrative thus developed is the more interesting because of the frequently contrasting, if not diametrically opposing views of Kentucky's contemporary political leaders.

In his attempt to sketch for the first time a running account of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky from the newspapers of this Commonwealth of the Civil War period, the writer has had the fulsome co-operation of a number of librarians without whose assistance this work could not have been completed. Among these were Miss Florence Dillard of the Lexington Public Library, Miss Ellen T. Harding of the Louisville Free Public Library, Mrs. Pauline Hardin Van Meter of The Kentucky State Li-

brary in the new Capitol, Miss Nina M. Visscher of the Kentucky State Historical Society Library in the old Capitol, Mrs. Mary Belle Taylor Hay, who owns the Swigert Taylor Library at "Scotland", and numerous others. Acknowledgment is also made of the important and exacting service rendered by Miss Elizabeth Drury and Mr. G. Glenn Clift, both of Lexington, Kentucky in transcribing much of the selected Lincoln material from the old newspaper files. And lastly for a careful reading of the final proofs I am much indebted to the indulgence of an old and much admired friend—John Wilson Townsend—than whom there is no Kentuckian more interested in the expanding literature of this Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. W. Townsend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Frankfort, Kentucky  
August 12, 1932.

## CONTENTS

DEDICATION	- - - - -	vii
PREFACE	- - - - -	ix
CONTENTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS	- - -	xi
PROMETHEUS BOUND: 1860-1861	- -	1
PROMETHEUS UNBOUND: 1864-1865	-	49
BIBLIOGRAPHY	- - - - -	159
INDEX	- - - - -	163

## ILLUSTRATIONS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE STATUE AT HODGENVILLE	- -	<i>Frontispiece</i>
THE NEWS OF LINCOLN'S DEATH	- -	18
FACSIMILE OF LINCOLN'S LETTER TO CLAY		38
A BLUEGRASS EDITORIAL ON LINCOLN	-	56
A KENTUCKY NEWSPAPER MOURNING LINCOLN'S DEATH	- - -	86
THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AT HODGENVILLE		120

---

*Photographs herein reproduced of the Lincoln Statue and Memorial at Hodgenville, Kentucky were made and copyrighted by Caufield and Shook of Louisville.*





# LINCOLN BACK HOME

## PART I.

*"The perfection of moral and intellectual  
nature impelled by the purest and the truest  
motives to the best and noblest ends."*

PROMETHEUS: SHELLEY.

# LINCOLN BACK HOME

*"PRÔMETHEUS BOUND"*

1860--1861

**I**N THE FALL of that fatal year, 1860, Abraham Lincoln, who was destined shortly to make impress upon the pages of world history, burst like a rocket into the current literature of Kentucky, his native State. Previously, of course, his policies and political activity, particularly in the debates with the celebrated and muchly admired Stephen A. Douglas, had been casually noted, but with an abstraction of interest that only too well indicated the lack of vital import with which they were regarded. Where, by some good fortune, he obtained notice in the daily press prior to this time it was so small or so inconspicuously placed as to be of no positive political effect whatsoever.

Throughout Kentucky the lanky lawyer-politician of central Illinois was chiefly notable as a droll, yet sagacious, would-be public figure. Confessedly a true Whig disciple of the great Compromiser, Henry Clay, it was recognized that Lincoln was possessed of certain rather definite anti-slavery characteristics which were intricately bound up with his constant and sincere espousal of the American constitution and Union.

As a straw before the wind, which in time was to breed the whirlwind of sectional strife in America, *The Kentucky Statesman* of Lexington, on Friday evening, October 14, 1859, carried these paragraphs in its leading editorial, expressive of the southern or pro-slavery sentiment which was at the time rapidly in process of crystalization in Kentucky. Lincoln, it will be seen, is mentioned only in company with others—not as the real or national leader of Republican thought and policy.

### BLACK REPUBLICANISM—ITS FANATICISM

“Those southern journals which are in the interest of the consolidation scheme, are become the apologists for black republicanism, claiming that its fanaticism has moderated, and its abolition zeal abated. The *Richmond Whig* and *Louisville Journal* are of this class. They charge useless agitation of slavery issues upon the democratic leaders, cry out false alarm, and profess to apprehend no danger from the ascendancy of conservative republicanism. Leavened with the conservatism of south-Americanism, they think republicanism would administer the government safely and wisely.

.....

“Now, despite the arguments and remonstrance of the Whig, we propose to show that nearly all the most prominent leaders

of the black republican party have uttered and still entertain unrecanted opinions and sentiments so detestable and atrocious that the perusal of them should make the blood of every southern man boil with indignation. And we shall show that these fanatics are the favorite and most honored leaders of the black republican party; and we challenge the Whig to cite an instance of the Black Republican party having disavowed or even reproved the miscreants in question for the bold and unblushing utterance of their hateful opinions. Who are the leaders and representative men of the black republican party? The Whig will not deny that they are Seward, Lincoln, Sumner, Wilson, Wade, Chase, Greeley, and Banks. These are the most trusted and honored of the leaders of that party which the Whig intimates is not half so black as we have painted it. As all parties are governed and controlled by the opinions of its favorite leaders, does not the idea of the Black Republican party being *the only exception* to this universal rule appear improbable?

.....

“Next we have the Hon. Abraham Lincoln, candidate of the Black Republican party of Illinois, in 1858, against Judge Douglas, the first in popularity and talents among the Black Republicans of the Western States. He says:

“I believe this Government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.



I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the States—old as well as new, North as well as South.”

“Does any one deny that Lincoln is the leader and exponent of the Black Republican party of Illinois and Michigan?—Can the Whig authoritatively deny that Lincoln has not the confidence of his party, when it *unanimously* nominated him their candidate for the U. S. Senate, upon the very occasion when he delivered the incendiary and fanatical speech from which we have given an extract.”

It is interesting to note that even when Lincoln, on September 17, 1859, approached as close to Kentucky as Cincinnati to give his celebrated speech addressed again and again in its early part to “you Kentuckians”, that little was made of it in this Commonwealth. Not until Tuesday evening, October 11, 1859, nearly a month after the event does the *Kentucky Statesman* of Lexington give attention to its really significant statements in its strongly Democratic columns. Then with characteristic indifference

ignoring the one part of the address aimed at Kentucky and its pro-slavery advocates, it picks out and reprints as an editorial on page three, the following rather long excerpt from the latter part of the speech.

### THE CONDITION OF THE UNION

“The friends of MESSRS. BELL, BATES and BOTTS are eagerly soliciting a union with the Black Republicans. MR. LINCOLN, of Illinois, in a recent speech in Cincinnati tells them the terms on which they can obtain such union. Here they are. Will they submit to them?

“I have taken upon myself in the name of some of you to say, that we expect upon these principles to ultimately beat them.—In order to do so, *I think we must have a national policy in regard to the institution of slavery, that acknowledges and deals with that institution as being wrong.* (Loud cheers.)—Whoever desires the prevention of the spread of slavery and the nationalization of that institution, yields and gives up all, *when he yields to any policy that either recognizes slavery as being right, or as being an indifferent thing.* Nothing will make you successful but setting up a policy which shall treat the thing *as being wrong.* When I say this, I do not mean to say that the General Government is charged with the duty of redressing or preventing all the wrongs in the world, but I do think that it is charged with the duty of preventing and

redressing all wrongs to itself. This Government is expressly charged with the duty of providing for the general welfare; we believe that the spreading out and perpetuity of the institution of slavery impairs the general welfare. We believe—nay, we know—that it is the only thing that has ever threatened the perpetuity of the Union itself; the only thing that has ever menaced the destruction of the Government under which we live, is this very thing. To repress this thing, we think, is providing for the general welfare. Our friends in Kentucky differ from us. We need not make our argument for them, but we who think it is wrong in all its relations, or in some of them at least, must decide as to our own actions and our own course, upon our own judgment.

“I say that we must not interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists, because the Constitution forbids it, and the general welfare does not require us to do so. We must not withhold an efficient fugitive slave law, because the Constitution requires us, as I understand it, not to withhold such a law; but we prevent the outspreading of the institution, because neither the Constitution nor general welfare require us to extend it. We must prevent the revival of the African slave trade and the enacting by Congress of a Territorial slave code. We must prevent each of these things being done by either Congress or Courts. The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both Congress and the

Courts, (applause) not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution. (Applause).

“To do these things we must employ instrumentalities. We must hold conventions, we must adopt platforms, if we conform to ordinary customs; we must nominate candidates, and we must carry elections. In all these things, I think we ought to keep in view our real purpose, and in none do anything that stands adverse to our purpose. If we shall adopt a platform that fails to recognize or express our purpose or elect a man who declares himself inimical to our purpose, we not only take nothing by our success, but we say that we act upon no other principle but a desire to have “the loaves and fishes,” by which in the end our apparent success is really an injury.

“I know that it is very desirable with me, as with everybody else, that all the elements of the Opposition shall unite in the next Presidential election and in all future time. I am anxious that that should be, but there are things seriously to be considered in relation to that matter. *If the terms can be arranged, I am in favor of the Union.—But suppose we shall take some man up and put him upon one end or the other of the ticket, who declares himself against us in regard to the prevention of the spread of slavery, who turns up his nose and says he is tired of hearing anything about it, who is more against us than against the enemy, what will be the issue? Why he will get no slave States*

*after all—he has tried that until being beat is the rule for him. If we nominate upon that ground, he won't get a slave State; and not only so, but the portion of our men who are high-strung upon the principle we really fight for will not go for him, and he won't get a single electoral vote anywhere, except perhaps in the State of Maryland. There is no use in saying to us that we are stubborn and obstinate, because we won't do such things as this. We can not do it. We can not get our men to vote it. I speak by the card, that we can not get the State of Illinois in such case by fifty thousand. We would be flatter down than the "Negro Democracy" themselves have the heart to wish to see us.*

“After saying this much, let me state a little on the other side. There are plenty of men in the slave States that are altogether good enough for me to be either President or Vice President, provided they will profess their sympathy with our purpose in the election, and will place themselves on the ground that our men, upon principle, can vote for. There are scores of them, good men in their character for intelligence and talent and integrity. If such a one will place himself upon that sort of ground I am for his occupying one place upon the next Republican Opposition ticket, (applause) I will heartily go for him. But, unless he does so place himself, I think it a matter of perfect nonsense to attempt to bring about a union upon any other basis, that if a union can be made, the elements will scatter so that



there can be no success for such a ticket, not anything like success. The good old maxims of the Bible are applicable, and truly applicable to human affairs, and in this as in other things, we may say here that he that is not for us is against us, he who gathereth not with us scattereth. (Applause). I should be glad to have come of the many good and able and noble men of the South to place themselves where we can confer upon them the high honor of an election upon one or the other end of our ticket. It would do my soul good to do that thing.—It would enable us to teach them that inasmuch as we select one of their own number to carry out our own principles, we are free from the charge that we mean more than we say.”

Though Lincoln possessed a fervor, enthusiasm and lucidity on the stump, few residents of Kentucky, particularly in the aristocratic slaveholding Bluegrass region, other than Cassius M. Clay and his small circle of avowed abolitionists, really thought until late in the campaign that the candidate of the new Republican party from Illinois would be so generally approved by the electorate of the nation as to be successful in the now justly famous four-cornered presidential race. It was not held possible that so provincial and ungainly a person could seriously contend in so titanic a struggle.



But the fundamental appeal of the simple character of Abraham Lincoln, the absolute honesty and unswerving sincerity of the man, the unassailable Union-Americanism of the candidate prompted a response in the hearts of the sentimentally-moved and liberty-loving electorate which finally made itself apparent. On October 30, 1860, the following appeared in the editorial column of the Louisville *Courier* (Secessionist) which had the names of John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky for President, and General Joe Lane of Oregon for Vice-President pinned to its mast head for the National Democratic Ticket:

### THE DAY IS AT HAND

“Fellow-citizens of Kentucky, the day is even now at hand when upon your decision and your action, we in all candor believe, the fate of our beloved country depends. . . . We have done whatever we could do, to promote the interests of the only candidate who has the slightest possible chance of defeating Lincoln,—we have done all we could do to expose the purposes and aims and plans of the sectionalists of the North . . . . We have endeavored to convince our people that the only hope for the South . . . . is in presenting a united front to the aggressors of the North.

“And, now, in view of the momentous interests at state, and of the terrible crisis that is upon us, . . . . we make one more

candid and earnest appeal to the patriotism and loyalty of the people of our native State . . . . We tell them . . . . that there is danger ahead. Should Lincoln be elected, it is believed by many that a dissolution of the Union is inevitable—that the glorious Confederacy, of which we have all been so proud will be broken up—that the Heaven-inspired Constitution, under which we have lived as one people, and grown, and prospered, will be trampled under foot . . . .”

Again on November 5th, the day before the election, the *Courier*, which had been devoting its editorial column entirely to the success of its standard bearers, Breckinridge and Lane, said in part:

“Pause, fellow-citizens, to think how your votes will serve best to defeat Abraham Lincoln and save your country. A local success for your party should be no object now. Vote for party, and a few political gamblers may pocket their winnings; a few party managers may accomplish their personal end; and *their* bonfires and illumination may light the Union to its dreadful doom, and you may regret in sackcloth and ashes . . . .”

Actual quiet—the lull before the storm—marked election day, November 6, 1860 in Kentucky. Unofficial returns dribbling in during the evening showed a strong tide sweeping through the old commonwealth for Bell of the

*Constitutional-Unionist* party, followed by Douglas. The two native sons, Breckinridge and Lincoln trailed in ignominy in the order given.

Lincoln received only 1,366 votes out of a total of 145,862 ballots cast—not an exceedingly gracious tribute to him, either as a son of the Commonwealth or as the man fate had ordained to direct the destinies of this great country through a prolonged period of awful civil strife and unrest. News definitely determining the election from the country at large was slowly garnered in and not until Thursday morning, November 8, 1860, was the issue actually settled. The *Louisville Daily Courier* then published on page 1, the following news item:

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION— LINCOLN ELECTED.

“Ill news travels fast; and so the lightning brings us intelligence from the Northern States that bodes ill for the peace and quiet of the Republic. The whole North seems abolitionized. Pennsylvania has gone for Lincoln by an immense majority—perhaps 50,000. Ohio has followed suit by 40,000 and upwards; Massachusetts by 70,000 plurality; Illinois, it is said, by 15,000; Indiana by 25,000 to 30,000 and every other free state this side of the Pacific slope, with, the exception of New Jersey, by tremendous majorities. New York, which was the great battle ground, and on which rested the hopes

of the country, has gone down before the blast of fanaticism. The majority in New York City is about 30,000, but this could not offset the great sectional vote of the Black Republicans in the rural districts of that state, which cast its vote for Lincoln by more than 40,000 majority!"

Lower on the front page of the "Courier" of the same date one finds a small but very significant item.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA.

"A dispatch from Columbia, South Carolina, dated yesterday, says the legislature has postponed action on the Governor's suggestion to arm the state, until it is ascertained that Lincoln is really elected. There is an overwhelming majority in favor of calling a Convention. Resolutions for sending Commissioners to Georgia will be introduced to-morrow."

Unrest and indeterminate action soon culminated in a growing feeling toward Secession in the South. Kentucky, however, about equally divided, stood firm for adherence to the Union, but with sympathy for the southern cause. The *Louisville Daily Courier* finally said editorially on November 8, 1860:

"There is no longer ground for hope.— Lincoln, the candidate and representative of

Black Republicanism, is certainly the President elect of the United States. The anti-slavery party, twenty years ago, a weak dispised, and powerless faction, without a majority in any state, district, county, or township in the United States, with its views and professed aims, but slightly modified, has over spread the larger portion of the Union; and the appearances now indicate that all of the non-slave holding states have cast their votes for Mr. Lincoln, who is elected against the emphatic protest and earnest remonstrance of all the slave-holding states. For the first time in the history of the country, that calamity so much feared by Washington and Jefferson and the statesmen of their day is upon us . . . ”

On the succeeding day, November 9, 1860, the *Kentucky Statesman* of Lexington, published on page three a strongly anti-Lincoln editorial. This paper had passed through the recent four-sided election as a standard bearer of the National Democratic party, having supported John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky and Joseph Lane of Oregon respectively for President and Vice-President. There is much in this editorial, which follows verbatim, that is suggestive of the bitterness and calumny which was soon to be heaped on Mr. Lincoln's head by many citizens of the Commonwealth, not alone its press, during the high heat of strife and dissention in the on-coming bloody Civil War. That Abraham

Lincoln was a native Kentuckian, born of the same virile Anglo-Saxon stock, impelled by the same ideals and urged on by the same relentless impulses as the best man among them, made no difference at all to the majority of Kentuckians unless, as is probably the case, it actually served to intensify the collision and the shock of the impact of their minds.

### LINCOLN'S ELECTION—THE UNION AND ITS PERILS.

“In less than twelve hours after the close of the polls on Tuesday last, it was known throughout the whole country, from Maine to Texas, that New York had thrown her thirty-five electoral votes to Abraham Lincoln, and thereby secured his election to the Presidency. No sooner was this known than the public attention was turned to the cotton States, to note there the signs of coming trouble. The Legislature of South Carolina, already assembled for the purpose of choosing the Presidential electors of that State, by its action has increased the public apprehension. At such a time it becomes every good citizen to speak out. Our position has already been taken. We have now but to adhere firmly to the views before expressed.

“No intelligent man in the South will fail to deprecate the election of Lincoln and therein the success of the Republican party as the most serious and lamentable calamity



which could have befallen our Republic. Whether we go to the authoritative exposition of the purposes and principles of that party, as found in its platform, or to the enunciation of its doctrines by its leading exponents, or to its spirit and policy as found in its legislative acts in the free States, or finally, to the opinions of Lincoln himself, who is the author of the infamous "Irrepressible Conflict" doctrine, we can not escape the conviction that the principles of the Republican party are in conflict with and subversive of the Constitution, at war with the spirit of the Federal compact, and if practically enforced, utterly destructive of the equality of the States and the equal rights of American citizens. Mr. Lincoln has proclaimed war upon slavery, and announced that this Union can not exist as a confederacy of part free and part slave States. The Republican party has in nine Northern States nullified the Constitution and placed itself in open rebellion against the Federal government. If, then, with these avowals and evidences of its purposes the Southern States grow restless under its inauguration into Federal authority, we can not be surprised.

"But what is now to be done? Mr. Lincoln is constitutionally qualified—has been elected President under all the forms of law. Though we deprecate his principles and well understand the purposes of his party, we hope and trust his inauguration will be acquiesced in by all the States. There is as



yet no just cause for revolution or dissolution. The UNION commands our cordial allegiance; to it we shall be loyal until its basis, the Constitution, has been actually destroyed. Kentucky will not surrender the Union. Our people are as gallant and spirited defenders of their rights, and as little disposed to submit to wrong and dishonor as any men who tread the soil of America. They will not permit themselves to be degraded nor their equal rights actually invaded; but they do not believe the time has come for revolution, and will yet cling to the Union with the devotion of the true sons of '76.

“To our Southern friends we would earnestly appeal to await the full development of Lincoln’s policy before striking the fatal blow to the Union. Kentucky is a border State, and, as such, the first and greatest sufferer by abolition ascendancy. Our State is a barrier of protection to the cotton States against anti-slavery aggressions. Our friends in the South can certainly bear the administration of Lincoln as long as we can. Then let them heed the voice of Kentucky; stand true to the Union and exhaust all hope of yet maintaining the Constitution. The Democracy of Kentucky, those men who, in the support of Mr. Breckinridge, have given earnest of their fidelity to the rights of the South, will appeal to the South to give whatever movements are now in contemplation, and like patriots, uphold the Constitution

and the Union. Do this, and all may yet be well.

“Moreover, there is still a bulwark of protection left us in a Democratic Senate, a Democratic Court, and an anti-Republican House. Mr. Lincoln will be powerless to carry out the purposes of his party, even if madly determined upon their execution. The Senate is there to oppose its voice to his measures. The House is there to withhold supplies. The Supreme Court is there to annul his infractions of the Constitution. Then why be precipitate? We love the South and her institutions; we have labored to avert this calamity by the election of Mr. Breckinridge; we despise the Republican party and understand its nullification and treason; but we love the Union, and would still cling to it with strong hope of yet wrestling it from the traitors, and cling to the Constitution with sanguine expectations of preserving it intact.”

Again on Tuesday evening, November 12, 1860, the *Kentucky Statesman* of Lexington produced on page three another somewhat lengthy editorial adverse to President-elect Lincoln and his principles and policies. Of the full seven paragraphs of this item, paragraphs three, four, and five are here presented as typically indicative of its context.

# THE DAILY PRESS

OFFICE—PRESS BUILDING,  
NO. 826  
JEFFERSON STREET  
LOUISVILLE:

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1865.

**GOD HAVE MERCY!**

**MURDER IN THE CAPITAL!**

**Treason Stabs the Nation's Heart**

**PRESIDENT LINCOLN  
ASSASSINATED!**

**SECRETARY SEWARD  
ASSASSINATED.**

April 15, 2:45, A. M.—“One can take no more revenge on one's country than on one's own father,” wrote a Greek philosopher two thousand years ago. In these days, we have love for the punishment of parricide.

But what punishment is adequate for the wretches who in an hour like this have lopped off the Nation's Right Hand, and have struck down the Nation's Head? Words are too weak to embody the curses which will be hurled upon them by an indignant people.

“In the midst of life we are in death.” The nation's *gloria in excelsis* is rudely and discordantly changed to the *misereere*. The whole land will mourn as one man. May God in his infinite mercy have mercy upon an afflicted people.

[Special to the Western Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, April 15, 12:30 A. M.—The President was shot in the theater to-night, and is perhaps mortally wounded.

SECOND DISPATCH.

The President is not expected to live through the night. He was shot at the theater. Secretary Seward was also assassinated. No arteries were cut.

THE NEWS OF LINCOLN'S DEATH

(From the Louisville Daily Press of April 15, 1865)



SUBMIT TO THE CONSTITUTION,  
BUT RESIST THE FIRST ATTEMPT  
TO ENFORCE THE PRINCIPLES OF  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

“We, therefore, counsel acquiescence in Lincoln’s election, or rather in the recent verdict of the people, upon the distinct and equivocal expression of strong hope, if not belief, that no real attempt will be made to carry out the measures avowed by his party. If we believed that the Federal administration would, and could now be used to carry out the aggressions of fanaticism against slavery, our voice would now be for resistance. But we cling yet to a hope for the Union.

“We are now for submitting to the Constitution, and not to the carrying out of Republican principles. The South has never yet resisted the Constitution nor violated any of its provisions. Let us adhere to that position. Let us submit to the Constitution, under the forms of which Mr. Lincoln has been elected; but inasmuch as the Constitution does not compel us to submit to such infractions of its provisions as would degrade us, we would urge resistance to an attempted enforcement of Republican principles to the bitter end.

“Our position is, then, briefly this: as partizans we opposed Lincoln because of the enunciation of his platform; as citizens we must measure our loyalty by his official acts. Then we would acquiesce in his inauguration, and submit to his administration as

long as it infracts none of the guarantees of the Constitution, but resist the moment he employs his official authority to carry out the purposes of the Republican party, submit to Lincoln, but resist the exponent of Republicanism. As an individual citizen duly elected, let him have our allegiance; but as the representative of the "Irrepressible Conflict" doctrine, never submit to his official authority. Let us do all the Constitution requires—only that and nothing more."

As indicative of the uncertainty of the period in this State, one notes on November 16, 1860, the very significant letter from Governor Beriah Magoffin to Samuel I. M. Major, Jr., editor of the *Frankfort Yoeman* (Secessionist) on, "What will Kentucky do, and what ought she to do, now that Lincoln is elected president?" Union meetings without party distinction were now taking place throughout Kentucky and early in December Governor Magoffin circulated his six propositions to the governors of the slave states.

In the United States Congress, Kentucky's great statesman and orator and Senator John J. Crittenden proposed on December 18, 1860, his famous "slavery" compromise which lived but four days until voted down by the Senate Committee of thirteen. During this period the "Southern" press of the State's capital city, Frankfort, had not been unheard. On more than



one occasion the *Tri-Weekly Yoeman*, asserting Democratic principles but actually secessionist and anti-Lincoln in every act and deed, had done much in its dignified way to urge a counter movement to the evident proposals of the newly elected Republican administration. On November 10th four days after the balloting, it said editorially on page two:

“We have heretofore said that the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency would not of itself be cause for secession or dissolution of the Union, and our opinion remains unchanged. We think the South should give Lincoln’s administration a fair trial, at the same time holding it to a rigid accountability for its acts, and holding itself ready to resist any unconstitutional aggression upon Southern rights. Kentucky has perhaps suffered more from Northern fanaticism than any or all other States combined. Her losses of slave property have been heavy

. . . . .

“If Mr. Lincoln is imbued in any degree with a spirit of conservatism, he will doubtless manifest it, if he desires to preserve the harmony of the country. If he is radical, the conservative element of the nation can doubtless be rallied and united in opposition to his administration. In any event it is more than probable, that upon the distribution of the offices, his party will fall to pieces and be driven from power. May we not then hope that we shall at last secure our consti-

tutional rights at the hands of the people and is it not the part of patriotism to at least give even the administration of Lincoln—much as we may deplore his success and fearful as we may be of the result—a fair and impartial trial.

“The election of Lincoln, although not a sufficient cause for revolution, is nevertheless wrong both in spirit and principle. The sectional vote by which he was chosen and the principles upon which he was elected are wrong, and aggressive upon the South, and in consenting to his assuming the reigns of government we give allegiance, not to him nor to his principles which we shall continue to oppose, but to the Constitution.”

Such expressions of opinion and rebellious actions as were becoming effective in other States in the South, found their way into the Kentucky press from day to day together with a generally well defined hostile reaction to the election of Mr. Lincoln. The secessionist editors, particularly in the Bluegrass part of the State, were genuinely alert to this type of anti-Lincoln news and availed themselves of every opportunity to print it. On November 10 the *Frankfort Yoeman* published in full on page three the message of Governor Gist of South Carolina to the legislature of that State. Writing from the Executive Offices, in Columbia, November 5, 1860 the Governor said in paragraph three:



“ . . . but in view of the threatening aspect of affairs, and the strong probability of the election to the Presidency of a sectional candidate, by a party committed to the support of measures which, if carried out, will inevitably destroy our equality in the Union, and ultimately reduce the Southern States to mere provinces of a consolidated despotism, to be governed by a fixed majority in Congress hostile to our own institutions and fatally bent upon our ruin, I would respectfully suggest that the . . . Legislature remain in session, and take such action as will prepare the State for any emergency that may arise.

“That an exposition of the will of the people may be obtained on a question involving such momentous consequences, I would earnestly recommend that in the event of Abraham Lincoln’s election to the Presidency, a convention of the people of the State be immediately called, to consider and determine for themselves the mode and measures of redress. My own opinions of what the convention should do are of little moment; but believing that the time has arrived when every one, however humble he may be, should express his opinion in unmistakable language, I am constrained to say that the only alternative left in my judgment, is the secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union . . . ”

At the top of page two of the Frankfort Yoe-

man of November 10, 1860 appears the following item of news.

### ALABAMA JOINT RESOLUTION

“The action of the State of Alabama, in the contingency of Lincoln’s election is already in a measure determined on. The last Legislature matured the plan of calling on the people in their sovereign capacity to decide at once upon the happening of that event, and a convention delegated with all the powers of State Sovereignty, will immediately assemble.”

The joint resolutions then followed setting out in full particulars the procedure followed in Alabama looking toward an absolute secession of the State from the Union. It was a clever piece of propaganda on the part of the *Yoeman* pointing in the direction of the very Southern inclinations and principles of the paper, but it fell on fallow ground for the most part in central Kentucky. The town residents of the Capital of the State and the old masters of the elegant Bluegrass plantations, of which there were not a few within the *Yoeman*’s baliwick, wished to retain their slaves for the most part, but above and beyond all they wanted no separation from the old Federal Union of Washington and Jefferson. It was a trying and complicated situation in which they found themselves but subsequent

events were to definitely prove their unbroken allegiance to the country established three-quarters of a century previously under the Declaration of Independence.

With Lincoln assuredly—barring accident—the next President of the United States, political thinking and executive action began to crystalize immediately in Kentucky. Leaning pronouncedly to the Southern side of the raging controversy, but unable to overlook the fact that undoubtedly a majority of the citizens of Kentucky did not support him in his views, Governor Magoffin at once undertook to set such thought in motion as would allow him if nothing better to steer a middle course between the opposing sections—North and South. His plan and that finally determined upon, and for a short time followed only to be ultimately abandoned, was that of State Neutrality. It was a pretty picture, an artful conception but first, last and always a delusion and a snare, for as between such mountains of feeling as immediately arose on either side of Kentucky, such a state of official being, for this or any other Commonwealth, could not long exist.

In his now celebrated letter to S. I. M. Major, editor of the *Yoeman*, of Frankfort, Governor Magoffin asked a number of pertinent questions and then proceeded to answer them—as he desired to have them answered—by himself. Of

course the *Yoeman* immediately approved and published them on page two of its issue of November 17, 1860. Subsequently this letter gained considerable circulation in Kentucky and met with the hearty approval in principle at least, of all political parties and the majority of the citizenship of the State. It was not then generally foreseen and appreciated that the artificial position of "Neutrality" as proposed could not actually endure long enough to be of any appreciable benefit to the Commonwealth. Portions of Governor Magoffin's letter follow:

The Hon. S. I. M. Major,  
Editor of the Kentucky *Yoeman*,  
Frankfort, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:

"... I agree with you, that the election of Mr. Lincoln is no cause for secession or rebellion. It is not so regarded by the people of the State. It is true he has been elected by a sectional party, on sectional ideas, with a reckless sectional hostility to an institution (slavery) the South will not surrender. . . .

"... We say to you and to the Republicans, we stand here as pacificators, as arbitrators. We entreat you of the South not to take this rash step; and to you of the North, we say, calmly, but fearlessly and firmly, without threats, you must not encroach upon our constitutional rights as expounded by the highest and purest tribunal in the land. . . .

".... To South Carolina and such other

States who may wish to secede from the Union, I would say, the geography of this country will not admit of a division—the mouth and sources of the Mississippi River cannot be separated without the horrors of Civil War. — We cannot sustain you in this movement merely on account of the election of Lincoln. . . . .

“ . . . . As it is the majority of the people are against Mr. Lincoln, although he has been elected, the majority of Congress is against him and his principles . . . . ”

B. Magoffin,  
Governor of Kentucky.

On December 27, 1860 Governor Magoffin issued his proclamation for a called session of the legislature on January 17, 1861, which was to begin the clarification of the public viewpoint and which ultimately would lead to the State's stand for neutrality as between the Union and the seceding states. The Kentucky House of Representatives during the month passed resolutions disapproving the offer of men and arms by certain states to the President of the United States to be used in coercing certain sovereign states of the South into obedience to the Federal government, and indicating that the people of Kentucky, uniting with their brethren of the South would as one man resist such an invasion of the soil of the South at all hazards and to the last extremity. Loyal, generous, outspoken Ken-

tucky, democratic at heart, fond of the lovable South, true to the original principles of the young republic of North America! As time is reckoned but a few days from a questionable secession and the terrors of civil war, she stood for the old Union and for the settlement of all grievances within the government of the "founding fathers," not outside of it. To her everlasting credit let it be said and known that she ardently stood for peace, neutrality, compromise and Union!

As the winter of 1860-61 passed and the time drew near for the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, the Kentucky press, of Southern sympathy, became petulant and caustic in its editorial comments as these excerpts from the *Louisville Daily Courier* of March 2, 1861 indicate. The allusion is to Lincoln's movement through Maryland to Washington in advance of his family to prepare for the ceremony:

"Lincoln said in Philadelphia, before Independence Hall, that he would rather be assassinated than abandon the principles of the Declaration of Independence, but within a week he ran from the first whisperings of danger as fleetly as ever a naked-legged Highlander pursued a deer upon Scotia's hills. The men who made the Declaration of Independence did not make it good in that way. They fought for their rights; *Lincoln*



runs for his. The inference is, they could best maintain its principles by fighting; *Lincoln*, his by running. Let all men use the talent that is given them."

\* \* \* \* \*

"The first Black Republican President elect runs from imagined dangers and leaves his wife and family to meet them. They ought to swap clothes. She is a true Kentuckian. Lincoln began the exchange by, assuming her striped petticoat, called by his friends a "Scotch plaid".

\* \* \* \* \*

"Lincoln is said to be a Kentuckian by birth. We now have our doubts on that point. No Kentucky-born man ever would have run all the way from Harrisburg to Washington, with but the ghost of an enemy in sight."

On March 4, 1861 the *Louisville Daily Courier* said in part in its editorial entitled:

## THE OLD AND THE NEW

"Mr. Lincoln will be inaugurated in the same capitol and in the same place as his predecessor. The oath of office will be administered by the same venerable Chief Justice. The surroundings will be the same—except in a military array never yet witnessed at the inauguration of a President.

"But he will not be the President of the same confederacy. Seven of the States lately in the Union are now no longer so. Wide-

spread dissatisfaction; political convulsion such as has no parallel in history; an empty treasury; a crippled commerce; a Union divided forever and discordant. These are some of the difficulties Mr. Lincoln will meet at once on his assumption of power; and the question of peace or war will be in his own hands. —Never has greater responsibility devolved on any one man; and never, we fear, has any man been less capable of discharging important duties thrown upon him, than Mr. Lincoln will prove in the work before him. With ability of a low degree; without education or extensive information; with no political reputation; without experience in public affairs—simply, we believe, an honest man, he will be the tool of a fanaticism which he represents, and the instrument of the able, unscrupulous, and daring men whom he will call around him.

“What the Consequence will be, God only can foresee. This is the beginning of the end; but that end is wisely shut out of our sight. The best we can hope for is not what we would wish, while the worst we may fear is more horrible than we can conceive of.”

The inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as the sixteenth President of the United States on March 4, 1861, crystalized thought and action in the Southern States as had no other political ceremonial in American history. In Kentucky sentiment favoring either the Union or the Secessionist cause as the case might be continued to



grow and rapidly intensify. In the State Legislature then in session an ardent and successful attempt was made by the Unionist leaders to forestall any movement looking toward the calling of a convention to act upon the proposal to secede. R. T. Jacob, who later became Lieutenant Governor, introduced a resolution in the lower house which in its effect declared that Kentucky should take the position of a mediator in the quarrel between the North and the South. Although many people felt as Justice John M. Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, himself a Kentuckian, later stated, that there was no moment during the war when a decided majority of the people of Kentucky were not unalterably opposed to the dissolution of the Union, nevertheless with Jefferson Davis already established as Provisional President of the "Confederate States of America" the urge for Kentucky to join her sister southern States was indeed strong. On March 5, 1861, the *Louisville Daily Courier*, the most outspoken secessionist newspaper in the State, printed the following editorial under the suggestive caption—

### "THE NEW ERA"

"On and on, and on we rush to the great consummation to which we have been hastening for years, and which is now right before us and must be realized.

"We have entered upon a New Era, one,

it may be, of trouble, and trial and danger, and blood, but through which, in the present situation of affairs and the existing conditions of public sentiment, we must pass to reach that better period which lies beyond.

“What the immediate consequences of the accession to power in the Federal Government of those who deny the equality of Sovereign States in the Union, abhor the institutions of a portion of the Confederacy, and proclaim in advance their intention not to protect but by all means in their power to injure and destroy the largest property interest in the country, will be, it is not, in the light of the recent past, difficult to predict.

“A dissolution of the Union preceded the formal inauguration of Mr. Lincoln only because of the circumstances attending his election and the principles upon which he was chosen to the Presidency. His introduction into office will be followed by the secession of other Slaveholding States, whose peoples fully realize the hopelessness of their attempts to peaceably enjoy their domestic institutions and freely use their property in a Union where the political power is in the hands of men who sincerely and conscientiously believe those institutions are barbarous and sinful and maintain that they hold their property in defiance of the laws of all civilized communities and of God.

“The existence of the Black Republican party is incompatible with the maintenance of a Union between Free States and Slave States.

“Had that party not grown strong enough to elect a President and get possession of the various Departments of the Federal Government, yet the continued existence of an organization of any considerable power based on the principles of the Philadelphia and Chicago platforms, would, in the course of time, have driven the Slave States out of the Union as the only means of escaping an agitation which of itself defeats the objects for which the Constitution was ordained and established and the Union formed—to “establish justice, insure domestic tranquility . . . promote the general welfare, and preserve the blessings of liberty” to the people of the United States.

“The thirteen hundred thousand votes cast, in 1856, for *Mr. Fremont*, who represented the idea of hostility of African slavery, for President, left little room for doubt or hope as to the future—the ultimate triumph of the representative of the idea was indicated; and no one then hoped even that the Union would survive the inauguration of a strictly sectional President at Washington.

“Pending that election, *Mr. Fillmore* distinctly announced his belief that the success of a sectional party in obtaining possession of the Government, would result in a dissolution of the Union, and defended those who might withdraw from the Confederacy under such circumstances.

“The worst then feared is upon us. The Black Republican party increased its

strength in four years more than half a million votes; and yesterday the embodiment of its principles—a sectional man and the representative of a sectional party—became President of the United States. Mr. Lincoln is the Chief Executive officer of that portion of the Union that is left, seven sovereign States having deemed it the part of wisdom and prudence to anticipate what they knew must come.

“There is a Black Republican President at Washington; the Union is dissolved. The American people have entered on a New Era, whether for weal or woe, for peace or war, Mr. Lincoln and his advisers alone can determine.

“If they can divest themselves of prejudices of party and section, and fully realize the condition of the country and the nature of the responsibilities they must assume,—if they are capable of acting as statesmen and not as madmen—the independence of the seceding States will be acknowledged, the other Slave States will arrange themselves in the New Confederacy, peace will be maintained, fraternal relations will be restored between the sections, and all be well and end well.

“If, on the other hand, the new administration shall be controlled by that spirit of party and sectionalism which has shaped the action of particular States where Black Republicanism is in the ascendant, and, which we have too much reason to fear will influence the President and his friends, then

it will be attempted to treat the Confederate States as refractory provinces, to enforce the laws of the United States in their limits, to punish those whom fanaticism has designated as traitors, and war will follow, involving all sections and every State, but without changing the final result, for no free people fighting in defense of their liberties can be subjugated.

“We believe the same end will be reached through peace or war. Reconstruction of the Federal Union is now impossible. The Slave States must and will unite in a common Government, and the Free States must and will form another Confederacy. This may not be done immediately; but it is only a question of time, and the day is not far distant when it will be consummated. One or more of the States now holding slaves may determine to remain with the North; but as emancipation will be demanded as the price of permission to remain with the North, the result as far as the *status* of slavery in the two Confederacies is concerned, will not be changed.”

Finding only a passing satisfaction in its previous mild, though bitterly sarcastic jibes directed against the President, as time goes on the secessionist press of Kentucky becomes more and more caustic and outspoken in its attitude. Resort at last is had to cheap ridicule, and absolute contortion of news events. Finally gossipy items of a low and slanderous order make their



appearance, as may be noted in the following reprint from page one of the *Louisville Daily Courier* of March 23, 1861. The editor adds by way of information that this letter is *said* to have been written by a prominent member of Congress! Editorial vagrancy coupled with unblushing and continuous flaunting of a spirit of disloyalty eventually resulted in the suppression for a time of the *Daily Courier*.

Willard's Hotel,

Washington, March, 1, 1861.

"I was called here to vote in the House, and will return to Richmond tomorrow. The Republican party is utterly demoralized, disrupted, and broken up. Cameron and Chase, Weed and Greeley, can never affiliate. Lincoln is a cross between a sand-hill crane and an Andalusian jackass. He is, by all odds, the weakest man who has ever been elected—worse than Taylor, and he was bad enough. I believe Virginia, under his follies and pernelities will secede. It will take time, she will act deliberately, and with her goes all the Border Slave States. I was sent for by him. I speak what I know. He is vain, weak, puerile, hypocritical, without manners, without social grace, and as he talks to you, punches his fist under your ribs. He swears equal to Uncle Toby, and in every particular morally and mentally, I have lost all respect for him. He is surrounded by a set of toad-eaters and bottle-throwers, and did not know what the Adams amendment was until I told him. In addition to this, I am com-

pletely satisfied he is an Abolitionist of the Lovejoy and Sumner type.

“Such is your God, Oh! Israel!”

But Lincoln paid little or no attention to these personal darts and thrusts flung haphazardly *back home* from the Kentucky press. He was broad enough in his mind and sufficiently experienced in politics to recognize that a certain amount of this sort of thing was to be expected from the opposition party. In the case of Kentucky he was not in any measure deceived as to the open dislike and indifference that existed for him there in practically all walks of life. He never set any store by the fact that because he was a native of the grand old commonwealth, or that his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln was also a native, descended from one of the oldest and most influential families of Lexington and vicinity in the Bluegrass region, he should receive any special or favorable consideration at the hands of his fellow men there. He knew the Kentucky characteristic well enough to be sure that since he stood squarely for abolitionist principles, generally unfavorable there, that the opposite was to be expected and the best made of it.

In spite of all that Kentucky did to injure and hurt him during his active public life, Abraham Lincoln continued to love and cherish her and her people and her leaders as many of his utterances and acts attest. He was particu-



larly fond of the great Compromiser, the distinguished Henry Clay. Aside from being the actual leader of the old Whig party in Kentucky and the Nation, Clay was Lincoln's beau-ideal in politics, in society and in command of elegant and persuasive spoken English. This admiration for Clay became a motivating passion with the President and continued after Clay's political decline. It lived on indeed after his death as the following autographic letter proves beyond doubt.

Executive Mansion  
Washington, August 9, 1862.

Mr. John M. Clay,  
My dear Sir:

The snuff-box you sent, with the accompanying note, was received yesterday.

Thanks for this *memento* of your great and patriotic father—Thanks also for the assurance that, in these days of dereliction, you remain true to his principles—In the concurrent sentiment of your venerable mother, so long the partner of his bosom and his honors, and lingering now, where he *was*, but for the call to rejoin him where he *is*, I recognize his voice, speaking as it ever spoke, for the Union, the Constitution, and the freedom of Mankind.

Your Obt. Servt.,  
A. Lincoln.

Marvelous missive from a great and deeply appreciative heart. No one can read this letter

Executive Mansion,

Washington. August 9, 1862

Mrs John W. Clay.

My dear Sir:

The snuff-box you sent, with the accompanying note, was received yesterday.

Thanks for this memento of your great and patriotic father. Thanks also for the assurance that, in these days of dereliction, you remain true to his principles. In the concurrent sentiment of your venerable mother, so long the partner of his bosom and his honors, and lingering now, where he was, but for the call to rejoin him where he is, I recognize his voice, speaking as it ever spoke, for the Union, the Constitution, and the freedom of mankind.

Yours Obedt Servt.

A. Lincoln



without sensing the unbounded admiration which the President had for Kentucky's great man Henry Clay—the only one, beside himself that has actually achieved a permanent place in the hall of international fame! In this altogether unusual letter, now owned and highly prized by Miss Josephine Simpson of Lexington, Kentucky, a direct descendent of the Clays, his disciple, Abraham Lincoln, has summarized his own political philosophy in the last ten words of the last sentence. In its brevity and completeness, as well as its sentiment, it is one of the most remarkable pieces of his writing which has remained until the present unpublished in *facsimile*.

Meanwhile Governor Beriah Magoffin was exerting every effort to play the part of a statesman by enunciating his program of “neutrality.” Though such a plan now in the light of effectuated history, bears the earmark of a futile movement, it was not so regarded at the time. As a matter of fact most Kentuckians of that day felt that it was the only course for the State to pursue situated as it was on the border of the, or as one might say speaking with precise geographical knowledge, *between* the Abolitionist and the Slave state groups. John J. Crittenden who had finished his term in the United States Senate after proposing his famous “Compromise” was called to address the State Legis-

lature. Speaking as an outright Unionist, with the ring of the great Whig leader, Henry Clay in his every utterance, he said "It would be wisdom for us never to consider the question of dissolution. It is not a question to be debated . . . " In these few words he bespoke the majority of the public mind of his day. Kentucky preferred anything, even the eventful extinction of slavery to any plan that proposed to take her from the Union which she embraced as the fifteenth State, and indeed as the first Commonwealth in the West. The incarnadine struggle which she had experienced during the war of the Revolution and the second war with Great Britain in 1812 to 1814, caused her to instinctively prize as above rubies of great price her place in the United States of America.

A few days after Crittenden's celebrated "Union" speech in the Kentucky Legislature, John C. Breckinridge, than whom there was in the Commonwealth no more outstanding or honorable "States Rights Man" addressed the General Assembly and avoiding the proposal to secede, urged for peace if this could be obtained "without sacrificing the inalienable rights of the South." On April 10, 1861 the *Louisville Daily Courier* with its ear to the ground and alert to each changing pulsation of the oncoming struggle said editorially on page one under the heading, "*War at Hand:*"

“The news this morning is the most momentous of the revolution. The preparations of Lincoln’s Government are now understood, if we may place credence in the dispatches from Charleston, and it is equally clear in the aspect of the case that the Administration has proved faithless and treacherous. Its professions of peace—the pretense as to the evacuation of Fort Sumter, was a sham—a miserable pretext to gain time, and the result is known. A fleet of vessels is off Charleston bar, sent thither to reinforce Sumter.

“The blood of South Carolina will flow, but Sumter will never be reinforced. The spirit and patriotism exhibited by that people challenges the admiration of the world.

“It will be observed that Mr. Seward advised Gov. Pickens that unless Major Anderson was supplied from the Charleston market the Government would supply him with what he needed. His messenger was denied admittance to the Fort.

“The Governor of Pennsylvania asks for the arming of his State, and his reasons are given: Lincoln has advised him that Washington is threatened with a Southern army, and Pennsylvania must furnish her quota of troops.

“Will Kentucky furnish men to Lincoln to fight her brethren of the South.”

And on the same day on page two with

Lincoln and his avowed purpose to reprovise Major Anderson, a Kentuckian, at Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor confronting its southern sympathies as a maldirection of executive power, the *Daily Courier* said editorially under the suggestive heading.

### THE TIME DRAWETH NIGH

“Day by day the question of peace or war is approaching its solution.

“Whatever of doubt or uncertainty was thrown around the policy of the new Administration, as fore-shadowed in the Inaugural of the President, by the ambiguity of the language used, increased by the subsequent acts of those in power, and heightened by the coloring given to all these by the hopes and fears of the public in various parts of the country, is being rapidly removed by the developments of the hour.

“Mr. Lincoln intends to attempt the subjugation of the Confederate States, and is now preparing with all possible expedition to ‘take, hold, and possess’ the forts and public property in those States, and to collect the revenue in their ports.

“This is war. And when this is attempted by Mr. Lincoln, war is commenced.

“The Confederate States want peace.—They do not seek to interfere with the commerce or revenues of the United States. They will not blockade New York or Boston. They will not take the forts or invade the Territories of the old Union.—They will not commence war. But, should the Adminis-



tration, on any pretext, commence hostilities, then the new Republic will meet it in a manner worthy of the ancient renown of the States composing it—they will meet it with all the means of offense or defense at their command—then they will carry the war into Africa.

“This must be understood: If war grown out of any attempt on the part of the Federal Government at Washington to enforce the laws and extend the jurisdiction of the United States over the Confederate States, the responsibility will rest on the former, and the latter would be false to liberty and unworthy of freedom were they not to oppose force to force and strategy to strategy and art to art to the last extremity.

“The Administration has sought to avoid this responsibility. To this end, they have quibbled, and equivocated, and delayed and promised, and lied with cowardice deliberate and inexcusable. It is in vain. No matter by whom the first shot shall be, or may have been, fired, the attempt to reinforce Sumter or Pickens, or to collect the revenues at Southern ports, or to cripple and destroy Southern commerce by blockades, by the Federal Government, is war, and the adoption of this policy justifies any steps that President Davis and the authorities of the Southern Confederacy may see proper to take.

“We infer from the late news that war is not actually begun, whether blood has yet been shed or not. And soon we must hear

of battles and sieges and invasions, of victories and defeats, and of all the incidents and accidents of actual war.

“In such a contest there is no doubt where the sympathies of Kentucky will be—there can be no doubt where the famous riflemen of the State will be found.”

But Jefferson Davis’ order “to reduce Sumter” was carried out. As the first shell gracefully rose from its Southern mortar and crashed spreading destruction in the heart of the little, untenable fort, the gauge of a great and bloody conflict was sealed. Anderson immediately capitulated and sailed away to New York. Lincoln as the Commander-in-Chief in the United States called for seventy thousand volunteers. The dogs of war were loose. Then did father turn against son and brother against brother. Through the North, and through the South, the rumble of drums, the marching of many feet foretold the awfulness of the coming, the inevitable American conflict. In Kentucky the Union press generally, while saluting with sincerity the old flag, turned its hand and heart against Lincoln.

Lincoln’s message of July 4, 1861 was published by the *Commonwealth* (Unionist) at Frankfort, Ky., July 10th. Commenting upon it, J. H. Johnson, the editor in his column entitled, “*The President’s Message*,” agrees with Lincoln and says that “the attack upon Fort Sumter was precipitated by southern leaders,

with a view to coerce Virginia into secession.” He is distrustful of the legality of suspension of *habeas corpus*. Furthermore, he is inclined to think, that the President seriously regards the neutrality proclamation of Governor Magoffin as—“the expressed will of the legislature and the people.” On the contrary the *Commonwealth* contends:

“He, (Lincoln) should know that that proclamation was put forth by the Governor without any legislative authority, and without any warrant in the Constitution of Kentucky. It is of no more binding efficacy than the dictum of any individual, and it was framed with a view to further the public will.” And then . . . . .  
“We rejoice to know that Mr. Lincoln is not the Constitution of the United States, and that Mr. Magoffin is not the government of Kentucky. Both of these gentlemen were elected for brief periods—both governments are destined to be permanent. The message does not, and cannot change the position of the true Unionmen of Kentucky. They are for the Constitution and the Union, and not for Mr. Lincoln—and it is no part of their creed that a foolish opinion of a President, (the *habeas corpus* views of Lincoln), or a temporary mal-administration of public affairs is a sufficient cause for breaking the nation to pieces. They are for the Union, and they will be for the Union, let who will secede from it . . . .”

*Through the nether passages rolls the roar  
Of thunder; the lightnings run in curls  
Of scrabbled fire, and the dust up-whirls  
His eddying pillars: winds break free  
And leap to battle together, disclosing  
High contention of blasts opposing,  
Wind with wind; and the sky and sea  
In broils are mingled and blusterings.  
For the arm is bared of the God most high  
With the onrush of tempest and terror——.*

PROMETHEUS :ÆSCHYLUS.

BEVAN, Translation

# LINCOLN BACK HOME

## PART II.

*I would fain  
Be what it is my destiny to be,  
The saviour and the strength of suffering man,  
Or sink into the original gulf of things.*

PROMETHEUS: SHELLEY.



# LINCOLN BACK HOME

*"PROMETHEUS UNBOUND"*

1864-1865

AS THE FOURTH year of America's great Civil War drew to a close the name of Abraham Lincoln, never at any time since fratricidal hostilities began inconspicuous in the Kentucky press, assumed a greater importance than ever. The National elections were at hand and General McClellan, the nominee of the National Democratic party in its Chicago convention was pitted against the President who had been named by the Republican party for re-election. Through all the Bluegrass Commonwealth the people, their political views aside, were weary of the war and its devastation. Since the inception of the struggle, Kentucky, which under the leadership of Magoffin, Crittenden and others had stood for neutrality, had seen her territory overrun by hungry armies and countless armed bands.

The price for the passage of each had been an increasing despoilation and impoverishment. Grant had moved southeastwardly through the western part of the State to fight his great battle with Johnson at Shiloh. Smith, Marshall and Bragg had moved northward across the Tennessee line parallel to Buell to meet him in the most sanguinary battle of the west at Perryville; and

Morgan and other raiders had repeatedly swept through the richer portions of the Commonwealth to terrify, burn and pillage the unsuspecting countryside.

Strong as was the love of Country, Constitution and Union in the majority of Kentucky hearts, as indicated by this State's unwavering adherence to the Federal cause, Lincoln's individual prestige did not rate high among the rank and file of the citizenship, nor can it be said that he possessed any considerable degree of popularity in the press. With the gradual impoverishment of the people, the growing stagnation of business, and the mounting mortality of the times, the editorials of the newspapers became more critical, official pronouncements and executive proclamations more directly and unreservedly to the point. A rich border State, before the war began, Kentucky was now made desperate by organized gangs of guerillas, composed largely of soldiers deserted from the Confederate armies. These outlaws committing in unbridled succession every sort of crime, and for the most part on inoffensive and unprotected people, were the scourge of the State. How to deal with them and their supporting families and friends had been one of the problems which Lincoln, through his series of military commanders, had been unable to solve.

In his desire to rectify this condition,

Governor Bramlette, a steadfast Unionist-Democrat but no lover of Lincoln and his Republican principles came to an open break with the President. Openly criticizing Lincoln for the attempt of the military Commander of the District of Kentucky to allow only citizens of undoubted loyalty to the Federal Government to participate in the national elections of 1864, Governor Bramlette said in part in his letter of September 3 to the President as reprinted in the *Lexington Observer and Reporter*:

“Extreme measures, by which they (the military Commander and his subordinates) sought to break the just pride and subdue the free spirit of the people and which would only have fitted them for enslavement, have aroused the determined opposition to your re-election of at least three-fourths of the people of Kentucky.” He further stated that Kentucky had been dealt with like a conquered province and that he was opposed to Lincoln’s “election and regarded a change of policy as essential to the salvation of our country.” If he replied to this missive of the Governor, Lincoln’s letter did not find its way into the Kentucky papers. But the result of the election did, and somewhat in conformity with Bramlette’s prophecy. Kentucky turned its own son, Abraham Lincoln, down in terms beyond dispute, for it gave two votes to McClellan for

every one it cast for the President. But in the Nation, Lincoln was overwhelmingly the popular choice and was elected by a majority in excess of 400,000 votes. Of the then 233 electoral votes he received all but twenty-one.

One of the principal results of the balloting in Kentucky, as may be seen by a perusal of almost any newspaper of the time, is the rather considerable number of arrests for disloyalty. This offense was of a particular type then ascribed to political speakers who without care or caution, though they were aware of the numerous military proclamations covering this point, spoke in disparaging and depreciating terms of the President and his administration. Many considered it an opportunity to vent themselves of long pent-up feelings of opposition to Lincoln, his acts and his principles. Among the many who made statements or were reported to have made this type of disloyal assertion in public were a number of prominent Kentuckians and friends of Governor Bramlette.

One, General John B. Huston of Lexington, described as "a loyal Union man," was arrested November 8, 1864 and started off by General Burbridge, the Military Commander to be sent south beyond the Federal lines by the way of Catlettsburg. According to the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* of February 8, 1865 his offense had been simply opposition to Lincoln

in favor of McClellan. Governor Bramlette wrote the President on November 9, 1864, saying: "Stay the hand of this second Paine, and save your administration the odium and our country the shame of such inequities."

President Lincoln was quick to reply, addressing the following telegram, published in the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* February 8, 1865, to the Governor:

### TELEGRAM

Washington, Nov. 10, 1864.

Thomas E. Bramlette:

Governor: Yours of yesterday received. I can scarcely believe that General John B. Huston has been arrested for no other offense than opposition to my re-election, for if that had been deemed sufficient cause of arrest, I should have heard of more than one arrest in Kentucky on election day. If, however, General Huston has been arrested for no other cause than opposition to my re-election, General Burbridge will release him at once. I [am] sending him a copy of this as an order to that effect.

A. Lincoln.

But the President was destined to hear much more on this subject for the "disloyalty" incarcerations were not few. The plan followed, especially when a considerable number were arrested in one locality was to band them together and ship them south, sometimes with their ser-



vants, through the Southern lines. This sort of penalty was of course very objectionable, especially to Kentuckians who really meant no great evil in their political controversies, and who no matter how indiscreet they may have been in airing their southern sympathies, had neither notion nor desire to remove themselves one step beyond the boundary of the State, especially in a southern direction.

On February 11, 1865, the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* in furtherance of its Democratic impulses, published the correspondence of Governor Thomas Bramlette of November 22, 1864, relative to another of these "disloyalty" injustices. Bramlette had telegraphed the President declaring that Lieut. Gov. Jacob and Colonel Wolford were at Covington, Kentucky, both under arrest by order of the Secret Inquisition and asked their release at once or the suspension of the order affecting them. Later in the day the Governor wrote a lengthy letter to the President stating that both of these men were battle-scarred Federal soldiers and that this confinement was unjust and uncalled for having been instigated by secret accusers.

"Their pure and incorruptible patriotism may exceed the range of your comprehension" Governor Bramlette wrote to Brevet Major General S. G. Burbridge on November 14, 1864 in his rather characteristic and forceful diction.



He referred to the claim that these men had been “reviling the Administration and endeavoring to discourage enlistments.” Later in November General Burbridge replied curtly refusing to discuss the matter further. On the same day the Governor wrote a very long letter to President Lincoln in which after setting out his desire since the Federal election was over “to have a union of all in Kentucky in support of the Government” he said that “I regret that General Burbridge is pursuing a course calculated to exasperate and infuriate, rather than pacify and conciliate.” Evidently receiving no reply immediately, he wired Mr. Lincoln on November 22 that Jacob and Wolford were under arrest for no reason at Covington. To this the President sent the following answer:

### TELEGRAM

Washington, November 22, 1864.

Governor Bramlette:

Yours of today is received. It seems that Lieutenant Governor Jacob and Colonel Wolford are stationary at present. General Suddarth and Mr. Hodges are here, and the Secretary of War and myself are trying to devise mean of pacification and harmony for Kentucky, which we hope to effect soon, now that the passion induced by the exciting subject of the election is passing off.

A. Lincoln.

Shortly after the first of the year the Legislature met. One of its earliest acts was the consideration of ways and means of improving the civil condition of Kentucky. The generally despised acts and regulations of the military commanders brought forth particular condemnation and resulted in the passage of the following resolution which was approved by Governor Bramlette on January 14, 1865.

No. 55

RESOLUTION appointing a committee to visit the President of the United States, and lay before him the present disturbed condition of Kentucky.

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

That a committee, consisting of three members of the House and two of the Senate, be appointed by the respective Speakers. That said committee visit in person the President of the United States, and lay before him the condition and grievances of Kentucky, resulting from guerrillas and predatory bands of outlaws, who are murdering and robbing and will, unless driven out, destroy millions of property and depopulate portions of the State.

Approved January 14, 1865.

Governor Bramlette's opposition to the high-handed rule of General Burbridge in Kentucky, was not appeased with this enactment however,

# OBSERVER & REPORTER

LEXINGTON, KY.

APRIL 14, 1865.

## AN ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

A terrible calamity has befallen the Nation, in the death of its highest officer, the President of the United States.

The death of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic, at any time and from natural causes, is an event well calculated to excite feelings of profound regret and sorrow; and when that event is caused by the hand of a cowardly assassin, as was the death of Mr. Lincoln, it cannot but excite and appeal the nation. Two of the wicked persons who have by the rules of the people filled the first offices of this Government—Gen. Harrison and Gen. Taylor—fell victims to the same while in office; by the first time, however, in the history of the Government has the President of the Republic fallen under the cowardly and barbarous blow of the assassin. The whole thing is so strange, and so unaccountable, and so recent, and so near, upon a principle of common sense, that the mind is simply left in amazement and in terrible reality.

The particulars of the assassination, together with all the circumstances connected with it, are given in our paper this morning. It seems that the President was assassinated in the private box which had been assigned to him, and which he and his wife occupied at the Theatre on Friday evening, when the infamous deed was perpetrated in the presence of hundreds of persons; and that, in the excitement and confusion incident to the darkness of the theatre, and with the help taken place before the 10th of March last, when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated for a second time. What particular grievances this man had to avenge, (if he had any either real or imaginary), does not appear, nor can we well imagine that any private feud could be a plea to carry out his diabolical purpose. These things may all be explained in time, and we trust will be, so that the nation may not be left in doubt as to the real motives which actuated the commission of an act of barbarity and cruelty, at the heart thought of which the heart grinds sick.

Mr. Lincoln, according to the estimate of all who knew him, and more especially of those who have every had occasion to appeal to his clemency, was an amiable, genial, kind-hearted man. If he had personal enemies we were not aware of it; and however much men may have differed with him in regard to the policy pursued during his eventful administration, no one felt towards him the slightest animosity. This, together with the fact that his Constitutional powers were understood to be no generous in his view in reference to the great issues which agitate the public mind, renders this dreadful affair still more mysterious. In our estimation no more deplorable event could have befallen the Nation at the present moment than this so suddenly and so unexpectedly. With the nation in such a state of excitement, and with the important question now to be passed upon have been discussed by him; and we shall rejoice if his successor shall be enabled to bring to a close the terrible struggle, which

The following order from Major-General Palmer, has reference to the request National Cavalry to the Headquarters Department Kentucky, at Louisville, Ky., April 14th, 1865.

General Order No. 27.

The telegraph announces that President Lincoln was assassinated last night. The present state of the war has fallen, and the whole nation, which was rejoicing over the prospects of speedy peace, is mourning.

Let the people of Kentucky disappoint the interests who would involve them in blood-shed and strife, by concentrating themselves with calmness and moderation, avoiding all heated conversations and imprudent expressions. Let all parties in every means for preserving order.

The wicked need not rejoice over the terrible deed. The Government will still go on, and as great as the calamity is, the country will accomplish its high destiny.

By command of the General, J. B. HARRIS, Captain and A. A. G.

The funeral of President Lincoln takes place to-day at 12 o'clock. The Rev. Dr. Gurley, of the White Church, the President attended, will officiate on the occasion.

The death of Secretary Seward, whose assassination was attempted at the same hour that that of the President was accomplished, was reported on Saturday, but has been contradicted, and we are assured that he is now completely recovered, and recovering. His son, who was also badly wounded by the assassin, has in a very pleasant condition.

The notorious "Boss" Webster came here on Saturday last, and surrendered himself to Gen. H. H. H. He wanted the General to grant him the same terms that were granted to Lee, but his request was refused. As was treated as a deserter from the rebel army, and was allowed to take the oath. He promised to bring in his men, they having agreed to accept such terms as he might make. He was taken to the county, and in that and the surrounding counties his party continued to be regarded for some months.

A Proclamation of Gov. Bramlette will be found in our columns. It has reference to the melancholy death of President Lincoln, and its recommendation will, doubtless, be complied with throughout the State.

Andrew Johnson, Vice President of the United States, took the oath of office at noon on Saturday, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of the Executive. He requested all the members of the Cabinet to retain their positions, and appointed Wm. H. Hunt, Chief Clerk in the State Department, acting Secretary of State during the

fall of Mobile. By the annexed telegraphic dispatch to the Cincinnati Commercial, it will be seen that Mobile is in possession of Gen. Canby.

From Spanish Fort, April 9.

THE FALL OF MOBILE.

Mobile has fallen. Our forces occupied it on the 9th. General Wilson arrived in the rear of its western defenses on that day, five miles below the city. General Canby telegraphed: "We have flanked Mobile and the rebels are evacuating Spanish Fort, and Buickly has been taken. We have captured 3,000 prisoners. In Mobile 800 guns were taken. The garrison fell back upon the river, on gunboats, and by way of Chickasaw Bayou. General Wilson captured all of Roddy's command, but Roddy and Forrest escaped alone."

Details of the Assassination.

The Herald's Washington special sends details of the crisis preceding the assassination of the President, and this last hour. About half past seven P. M. Hon. George Ashmead, called at the White House, and was ushered into the parlor, where Schuyler Colfax was seated, waiting for a short interview with the President on business which had a bearing upon his proposed overland trip. A few moments elapsed when President Lincoln entered the room, and a short conversation took place, touching upon various matters. The President was in a happy, jovial frame of mind. Mr. Ashmead desired to see him on special business, and there being no time to spare, and then, the President took out a card and, placing it on his knee, wrote as follows:

"Allow Mr. Ashmead and friends to come to me at 9 A. M., to-morrow." (Signed) A. LINCOLN.

April 14, 1865.

These were the last words that he penned. It was the last time that he signed his name to any order, document or message. Mr. Lincoln finally stated that he must go to the theatre and warmly pressed Schuyler Colfax and Mr. Ashmead to accompany him, but they excused themselves on the score of previous engagements.

At about 8 o'clock this afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln started for the carriage, the latter taking the arm of Mr. Ashmead; the President and Mr. Ashmead walking together. As soon as the President and Mrs. Lincoln were seated in the carriage, the latter gave orders to the coachman to drive around to Senator Harris' residence, for Mr. Harris. As the carriage rolled away, they both said: "Good bye." "Good bye," to Messrs. Ashmead and Colfax, and the carriage had in a moment disappeared from the ground in front of the White House.

A few moments later, a party of four persons, the President and Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris and Mr. Thibodeau, of Albany, step-son of Senator Harris, arrived at the theatre, and entered the front and left upper private box. A moment before the attack was made, the President was leaning forward, resting his head on his hand, in his accustomed careless way; his eyes bent upon the stage, and enjoying a hearty laugh.

## A BLUEGRASS EDITORIAL ON LINCOLN

(From the Lexington Observer and Reporter, April 19, 1865)



but continued to strengthen, as had in fact his opposition and that of his predecessors Magoffin and Robinson to all Federal regulations which had the smack of pro-administration favor. Finally on February 11, 1865 the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* printed the following news item and appended comment on page three.

### NEW MILITARY COMMANDANT IN KENTUCKY

“The Louisville Journal of yesterday, has the following announcement:

“Major General Palmer has been appointed to command in Kentucky.—Thank God and Mr. Lincoln!”

“To which the almost universal response in Kentucky will be, Amen!”

Lincoln had bowed again before the Democratic will of Kentucky, his native State. General Burbridge had gone the way of General Nelson, General Anderson, General Boyle, and numerous others. He was succeeded by General John M. Palmer, a native Kentuckian, who lasted only until the Spring when he was succeeded by General Eli H. Murray. Generals Nelson and Anderson had been native Kentuckian commanders of the District before him and had failed to ride the tide of feeling in the old Commonwealth. Palmer did as well as any one could but the fact of the matter was that Kentucky was “too



hot" a place for any commander, clothed with broad military authority to sit very long.

One of the few characteristic anecdotes of Mr. Lincoln appearing in the press of Kentucky, was published on page one of the *Louisville Daily Union Press*, February 3, 1865.

"Mr. Lincoln's practical shrewdness is exemplified in the following anecdote, which is sufficiently characteristic:

"In the perlieus of the Capitol at Washington, the story goes that after the death of Chief-Justice Taney, and before the appointment of Mr. Chase was issued, a committee of citizens from the Philadelphia Union League, with a distinguished journalist at their head as chairman, proceeded to Washington for the purpose of laying before the President the reason why, in their opinion, Mr. Chase should be appointed to the vacancy on the bench. They took with them a memorial addressed to the President, which was read to him by one of the committee. After listening to the memorial the President said to them, in a very deliberate manner: "Will you do me the favor to leave that paper with me? I want it in order that if I appoint Mr. Chase, I may show the friends of the persons, for whom the office is solicited, by what strong personal recommendations the claims of Mr. Chase were supported."

"The committee listened with great satisfaction, and were about to depart. when



they perceived that Mr. Lincoln had not finished what he intended to say. "And I want the paper, also," continued he, after a pause, "in order that, if I should appoint any other person, I may show his friends how powerful an influence and what strong recommendations I was obliged to disregard in appointing him." The committee departed as wise as they came.

Shortly after its passage by Congress, and approval by the President, the brief but basic resolution providing for the legalization of Lincoln's epoch-making proclamation of emancipation was distributed to each of the States that had remained loyal and within the Union. In Kentucky the news of its receipt was conspicuously displayed in the press from which focal point it disseminated itself like the spread of wild fire and gave rise to the most bitter feeling and virulent incriminations. The following copy was published on page three of the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* of February 11, 1865.

A Resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a Proposition to Amend the Constitution of the United States.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled* (two-thirds of both Houses concurring), That the fol-

lowing article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

### ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Approved February 1, 1865.

When the transcript of the proposed "Thirteenth amendment" to the constitution of the United States looking to the abolition of slavery in Kentucky and throughout the United States was received by Governor Bramlette from William H. Seward in Washington, under the State Department's seal of February 2, 1865, the General Assembly of Kentucky was in session. The Governor immediately under date of February 7, 1865 transmitted the communication with a special message appended to the Legislature. It was published in full in the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* of February 11, 1865 with the following excerpted editorial comment:

"We publish in our paper today a special message of Governor Bramlette transmit-

ting to the Legislature the Constitutional amendment recently adopted by Congress, upon the ratification of which by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, slavery is to be abolished throughout the United States. Gov. Bramlette, contrary to what we had a right to expect from the Executive of the Commonwealth, recommends the adoption of this amendment, to be accompanied by a demand that the people shall be paid the last assessed valuation of slave property in the State. Such a demand would be treated with contempt by those having the power to comply with it, and therefore it is utterly futile to think of it for a moment. The result of an application by the President to Congress for an appropriation to carry out his border-State scheme of emancipation too fully attests the truth of this assumption to contemplate such a demand with the most remote idea of success. The people of the North will never for an instant listen to a proposition by which they are to be taxed to pay for slaves here or anywhere else. The message, then, may be regarded in no other light than as a simple recommendation to the Legislature to ratify the proposed amendment. —

“When the rebellion was originated, Kentucky took her position firmly, and by a decisive majority at the polls, in favor of the Union. Her people were told that it was no part of the object of those engaged in the effort to put down the rebellion to interfere with the domestic institutions of

the States—that the preservation of the Union and the restoration of the National authority were ALONE the objects of the war. It was not even hinted that slavery might ultimately fall in the struggle. The people of Kentucky were assured by those to whom they gave their confidence that no such intention was entertained, and upon the assurance thus given they did not hesitate to sever the ties which bound them to their brethren of the South—ties founded upon identity of interests and institutions and extensive commercial relations—and stand firmly in opposition to them in their insane effort to disrupt the government. Mr. Lincoln himself in his inaugural address, took no equivocal position upon this subject. He therein distinctly announced that neither he nor the party with which he was identified, had either the right or the disposition to interfere with slavery in the States. The platform of the Chicago Convention, which he declared should be a law unto him, had also enunciated the same position. And yet, what is now proposed? The very identical thing they stated they would not do, because they had neither the power nor the disposition, they are speedied with all haste to accomplish. And Kentucky, too, is unblushingly asked to aid them in it!

“This interference with slavery was originally claimed as resulting from the power conferred upon the President as commander-in-chief of the army and navy—an incident of the power resulting to him in

that relation from the war—and upon this his proclamation of emancipation was based. The Proclamation, however, was made applicable to the seceded States alone, and yet Kentucky, which not only did not secede, but planted herself then in opposition to secession, and has consistently occupied that position ever since, faithfully discharging every duty devolving upon her as a member of the Federal Union, has been made to feel the iron hand of power in reference to her constitutional rights in slave property, to a far more injurious extent than most of the seceded States themselves. What, therefore, has been commenced by power, so far as Kentucky is concerned, will, we trust, be ended, if ended at all, by the same agency. Her people ought neither to be asked nor expected to aid in this attack upon her rights, and if the Legislature should conform to the recommendation of Congress in the passage of the Constitutional amendment, they will have committed an act alike in defiance of the popular will and of the pledges which have been made to the people from the beginning of the war.

“This rebellion, as we have ever believed, can be put down more speedily and with far more auspicious prospects for a firm and lasting peace, by ignoring all sectional and fanatical schemes than by a resort to any one of them. Such a peace every true hearted patriot should most ardently desire. A peace based upon subjugation, extermination, or the annihilation of clear constitu-



tional rights will in the end be found to be no peace at all; and for ourselves, therefore, we repeat, that we trust Kentucky will stand true to her long defined position of hostility to Secession and Abolition alike, and planting herself upon the Constitution as the ark of our political safety amidst the perils by which we are surrounded, turn neither to the right nor to the left, but pursue the same straight forward path of duty which it has so long been her pride and pleasure to tread."

Thus the exasperating problem of slavery, long a bone of bitter contention in Kentucky, was hurled forcibly into the maelstrom of politics and military rule. All the contentions of this very two-sided question immediately came to the fore. Governor Bramlette took the position that the enslavement of African blacks in North America was a dead institution. Prentice in the *Louisville Journal* held it to be deadening in its effects on the economic and social life of the State. Both were right but Kentucky conservative in disposition and predominantly Democratic in politics accepted the new order slowly and with reluctance.

The Legislature turned a deaf ear to Bramlette's appeal for acceptance and spurned his suggestion that since Kentucky had remained loyal to the Union in her special case the slave property to some extent at least should be paid.



for by the Federal Government. Pro-slavery sentiment, marshalling large majorities in both House and Senate, unconditionally rejected the amendment thereby leaving the question open and as vexous as ever. To make matters worse, General Palmer, taking the position that since the State would not ratify the Amendment he must use such discretion as his broad military powers gave him, continued the active recruiting of negroes, meanwhile issuing free transportation to those blacks who desired it, thereby assisting many of the unshackled servants of Kentucky homesteads and plantations to make their way with ease to the Ohio and the free states north of it. Uncounted thousands soon availed themselves of this alluring privilege. As a result, long before the Thirteenth Amendment had become a law of the land by its constitutional approval elsewhere throughout the Union, it had become essentially effective in all parts of the Commonwealth.

At last came the fourth of March, 1865 and with it the melancholy second inaugural of Abraham Lincoln. The continuation of the war long beyond the time most people had thought it would take to run its course, had become a blight upon the entire Nation. In the South death and disaster walked hand in hand in every State, food and clothing were nearly unobtainable, all other commodities were scarce if at all available, while labor and money were both so

frightened as to have brought productive industry to almost a complete rest.

In the North the early feverish activity to win the war and be done with it, had long since been played out and evasion of the necessary and continuing draft had become widespread in many localities. The hand of taxation rested heavily upon the loyal States, slackening the interest to a large degree in the provisioning of large and still larger armies required by Federal commanders. Decimated communities in all parts of the country began to count the cost of the struggle and shudder at the still unmeasured consequences.

Governor Bramlette and other leaders in Kentucky favoring both the Union and the Confederate causes had begun to see the handwriting on the wall. They were as well aware of the trend of eventualities as were indeed the members of Lincoln's cabinet in Washington. The Federal military nutcracker, slow to get under way during the early part of Lincoln's administration, had now proceeded to the point where those experienced in the strategy of campaigning could see the end of the struggle. Grant in his memorable siege of Vicksburg had finally opened the Mississippi to the normal flow of commerce from St. Louis to the Gulf, thereby separating the Southwestern States from rendering effective aid to the war ridden Commonwealths to the east.

The forced retirement of Bragg from Kentucky and the series of successful though bloody engagements in Tennessee had paved the way for the master move of General Sherman "from Atlanta to the Sea" thereby bisecting the rebellious heart of the Confederacy. In the East Gettysburg had been fought and won, and Lee master military genius of the "Lost Cause" stood all but vanquished before the tottering Southern Capital, Richmond. Virginia and the Confederacy had been bled white to support his arms and those of other Southern Commanders.

Courage and an unyielding perseverance coupled with military tact of the highest order had marked Lee's career as the supreme commander in the field of the forces of Secession. But the contest was elementally unequal for the North excelled the South in men, crude resources and productive ability. It is easy now to see that this great war among the American people ought never to have been fought for it retarded the growth and progress of the United States fifty years, some parts of it perhaps a century. To an unalterable degree it was undoubtedly inevitable since the basic problems behind it were apparently without solution by other or more peaceful means.

Gallant men in a great country, all of the same blood and tongue, divided into separate and hostile camps through which day after day the grim reaper stalked unopposed taking his merciless

tithe of the best young life of two generations, caused thoughtful men in both "Yankee Land" and "Dixie" to look with saddened and chastened hearts at the fearful prospect before them in the early Spring of 1865. It certainly could not last much longer, but when would it stop?

On March 8, 1865, the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* had the following to say editorially relative to the President's second inaugural.

"Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President for a second term of four years on Saturday last. His address on the occasion will be found in our columns.

"Andrew Johnson was at the same time sworn in as Vice President, and took his seat as President of the Senate. His remarks on the occasion are not published, but the Cincinnati Gazette's Washington correspondent says: 'The address of Vice President Johnson, on being sworn in, is very severely criticised on all hands. His friends allege that he must have been laboring under severe indisposition.' That probably was not the true reason for the character of the address which caused such dissatisfaction. Andrew Johnson is not the man to do things gracefully or decently.

"There was nothing like the interest manifested on this occasion that there was four years ago, nor was the crowd now at all comparable to what it was then. The reason probably is to be found in the fact that there were fewer office seekers now, it

not being expected that the President will remove many of his own appointees.

“A reception was given at the Executive Mansion that evening, and the *Chronicle* (Mr. Forney’s paper) says of it, “Many colored persons appeared to pay their respects to the President and lady, among whom were Fred Douglass and wife.”

In the same issue on page two this Lexington, Kentucky newspaper published in full the five short paragraphs of Lincoln’s speech—perhaps the most succinct account that has been penned of this titanic struggle at arms. It was spoken by Lincoln, if contemporary accounts are to be relied upon, with a heavy heart depressed by the great tragedy surrounding him, and of which he probably as much if not more than any other man was personally conscious. The address is typically Lincolnian and is given here as taken from page two of the *Observer and Reporter* of March 8th, 1865. The spelling, punctuation, paragraphing and arrangement of this presentation of the inaugural utterances in Lexington have been here retained.

## THE SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

“FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN: At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then, a statement, somewhat in detail, of a



course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper.

“Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth, on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the Nation, little that is new could be presented.

“The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hopes for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured. On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war, all dreaded it; all sought to avoid it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war, seeking to dissolve the Union and divide the effects of negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

“One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that



this interest was somehow the cause of the war.

“To strengthen, perpetuate and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained.

“Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease before the conflict itself might cease. Each looked for an easier triumph and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other.

“It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces, but let us judge not, lest we be judged. The prayers of both should not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully.

“The Almighty has His own purposes. Woe unto the world because of its offenses, for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe unto the man by whom the offense cometh. If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of these offenses which, in the Providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom

the offense came, shall we discern that there is any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away; yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous. Although with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work. We are to bind up the nation's wounds and care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

A month slipped by, the war in the East dragged on to its now all too apparent eventuality. On April 2, the crushing thrusts of Grant and Sheridan caused the fall of Richmond, and the *Lexington Observer and Reporter* published on April 8, 1865, one day before Appomattox the following editorial.

"The dispatches published today announce the surrender of the Confederate

army under Gen. Lee. This practically ends the rebellion. This news will be received throughout the country with unbounded joy. There will now be an end to the carnage which for four long years has been desolating the country. Statesmanship must now complete the work so thoroughly done by the sword. There should be great rejoicing—not exultation over a fallen foe—that a just and honorable peace, the great object of the war, is now within our reach. If patriotism and statesmanship actuate our rulers we will soon see an indissoluble union of the States under the Constitution as given and interpreted by Washington. There will be a return to the sacred regard for public and private justice which characterized the purer days of the Republic—and a restoration of fraternal relations among the people of all parts of our country. Such results will create the wildest and most enthusiastic rejoicing.”

It was the beginning of the end and the end was close at hand. Lincoln visited Richmond April 4 for a couple of days, a fact recorded in the Kentucky press. His feeling of gratitude was quickly and widely recognized. At the same time that praises for those who had fought so gloriously to preserve the Union were being generously given, preliminary plans for the benefit of the shattered hosts and homesteads of the South were being thoughtfully designed. Ap-

preciative of the guidance of Divine Providence he set aside a day for general and country-wide thanksgiving. Saddened in an unmeasured degree by the death of his own little son Willie in his twelfth year—1862—, now more than three years ago, Lincoln felt deeply for the comfortless womanhood and fatherhood of America.

For the cherished love of country the Nation had paid in its own living blood a fearfully high price. But in so doing it had welded the country in a unit of thought and action and reality which was to henceforth be its sustaining bulwark against the aggressor from without and the traitor from within for all time. And furthermore: America in the triumph of her titanic struggle had erased the dull blot of slavery from her escutcheon now held high and resplendent before the admiring peoples of the world.

With the gray dawn of the morning of April 15, 1865, suddenly and without warning, a Nation's sorrow for her lost leader came to Louisville and Kentucky. The *Daily Journal* on page three, carried the following heartrending dispatch to the Western Associated Press.

Washington, April 15, 12:30 A. M.

"The President was shot in the theatre to-night, and, is perhaps, mortally wounded.

Second Despatch.

"The President is not expected to live through the night. He was shot at the

theatre. Secretary Seward was also assassinated. No arteries were cut.

Washington, April 14.

“President Lincoln and wife, with other friends, this evening visited Ford’s Theatre, for the purpose of witnessing the performance of *The American Cousin*. It was announced in the papers that General Grant would also be present, but he took the late train for New Jersey. The theatre was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene before them. During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause, for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious until a man rushed to the front of the President’s box waving a long dagger in his right hand exclaiming “*Sic Semper Tyrannis*,” and immediately leaped from the box, which was in the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side of the stage, making his escape amid the bewilderment of the audience from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse, fled. The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the president had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing to the stage, many exclaiming, “Hang him!”

“The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and of course there was an abrupt intermission of the theatrical performance. There was a rush toward the President’s box, when cries were heard—



“Stand back!” “Give him air!” Has anyone stimulants?” After a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head above the back of the temporal ball, and that some of the brain was oozing out. He was removed to a private house opposite the theatre. The Surgeon-General of the Army and other surgeons were sent for to attend to his condition. On an examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushion rocking-chair on which the President has been sitting; also on the partition and on the floor a common single-barrelled pocket pistol was found on the carpet. A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed.

“An immense crowd was in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible.”

The news of President Lincoln's death cast an inescapable pall over Kentucky. Except in isolated instances where prejudice and ignorance reigned supreme, grief and sorrow were everywhere in evidence. The *Louisville Daily Journal*, sensing the universal depression of the people printed on page one, April 18 the following dispatch:



The Western Associated Press.

New York, April 16.

“The Herald says: Simple, genial, generous-hearted, honest Old Abe had taken a closer hold upon the affections of the mass of the American people than any of their chosen favorites since Washington. Prematurely and violently cut off, he had lived long enough to realize the crowning success of his great mission, and has died in the fullness of his glory, second only to Washington, in the hearts of his countrymen. The name of Abraham Lincoln will go down to the future ages, steadily following the flight of events and the developments of public opinion through all the progressive changes of this gigantic war of ours. President Lincoln we can all fully comprehend, pursued the paths of safety, wisdom, and success.

“In the death of President Lincoln we feel the pressure of a heavy national calamity, but the great decree of the loyal States, that the Union must and shall be preserved, will lose nothing of its force, but will be universally if not terribly strengthened by this calamity. The policy of his measures was forgiveness and conciliation to the full extent, and the public mind everywhere was strongly inclined in the same direction. But the dark and shocking events of a single night have wrought a fearful reality. There is an ominous muttering in the streets that the lives of the assassins in this horrid business will meet with the requirements of justice, and that justice should now take its

course against treason and traitors wherever found.

“The *Herald's* Washington special says of the details of events preceding the assassination of the President, and of his last hours:

“About half past 7 P. M., Mr. Ashmead called at the White House and was taken into the parlor where Schuyler Colfax was waiting for the President on business which had a bearing upon his proposed overland trip. A few minutes elapsed, when President Lincoln entered, and shook hands and spoke of various matters. The President was in a happy and jovial frame of mind. Mr. Ashmead designed to see him on special business, but having no time to attend to it, the President took out a card, and placing it on his knee, wrote as follows:

“Allow Mr. Ashmead and friends to come to me at 9 o'clock to-morrow.

(Signed)

A. Lincoln.

April 14, 1965.”

“These were the last words that he penned. It was the last time that he signed his name to any order, document, or message. Mr. Lincoln finally stated he must go to the theatre, and warmly pressed Mr. Colfax and Mr. Ashmead to accompany him, but they excused themselves on the score of previous engagements. At about 8 o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln started for the carriage, the latter taking the arm of Mr. Ashmead, the President and Mr. Colfax walking together.

“As soon as the President and Mrs. Lincoln were seated in the carriage, the latter gave an order to the coachman to drive around to Senator Harris’ residence for Mr. Harris.

“As the carriage rolled away they both said, ‘good-bye, good-bye’ to Mr. Ashmead and Mr. Colfax, and the carriage had in a moment more disappeared from the ground in front of the White House. A few moments later a party of four persons, the President, and Mrs. L., Miss Harris, and Mr. Rathbone of Albany, step-son of Senator Harris, arrived at the theatre, and entered the front and left hand upper private box.

“A moment before the attack was made, the President leaned forward, resting his head on his hand, in his careless way, his eyes bent upon the stage, and enjoying a hearty laugh. Miss Harris was in the box west of the President, and makes the following statement:

“Nearly an hour before the commission of the deed the assassin came to the door of the box and looked in to take a survey of the position of its occupants. It was supposed at the time that it was either a mistake or an excuse of impertinent curiosity.

“The circumstances attracted no particular attention at the time. Upon his entering the box again, Major Rathbone rose and asked the intruder his motives. He rushed past the Major without making a reply, and placing his pistol close to the back of the President’s head, actually in contact with it,

fired and instantly sprang upon the cushioned banister of the box, when he made a backward plunge with his knife aimed at the face or head of Mr. Lincoln. Major Rathbone, sprang forward to protect the President, and received a stab in his arm.

“The murderer then jumped on the stage and effected his escape rapidly after having committed the deed upon the President. Mrs. L. saw the form of the President go down from the box and thought Mr. Lincoln had fallen out, and looked to see if she could see him on the floor, and barely saw the culprit jump to the stage. When all was over she turned her eyes to the box and saw that Mr. L’s head had dropped forward upon his breast, and at once realized what had taken place. The murder of the President was at once announced. Little Tad Lincoln was in attendance there, and the moment he heard the stamp he fell to the floor. The poor boy was taken to the White House and was soon quiet. He was insensible from the moment his father was shot until he died, and exhibited no signs of pain.

“Vice-President Johnson visited the President during the night, but remained only about an hour. In fact, many of those who had rushed to assist in taking care of the President found that their presence only obstructed, and gave way. The number present was reduced to but a few before he drew his last breath.

“He died without a struggle, and without perceptible motion of limb. Calm and silent,

the great and good man passed away. The morning came, and the rain was dropping quietly from the roof of the humble apartment where they laid him down to die. Guards had been stationed to keep the people from the house, and no noise could be heard in the street, save the footsteps of the sentry passing to and fro, as he guarded all that remained of Abraham Lincoln.

“All present felt the awful solemnity of the occasion, and no person could have witnessed the touching scene without melting to tears. Secretary Stanton, whose coolness and self-reservation were remarkable, could not keep back the silent motions of inward sorrow, which rolled out from his eyes upon his cheeks. Mrs. Lincoln remained but a short time, when she was assisted into her carriage, and with her son Robert and other friends, she was driven to the house, where but last evening he left for the last time.”

A few years ago the *Louisville Times* on the 115th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, February 12, 1924, published the following most interesting account of how Kentucky's metropolis learned the news of the martyred President's death.

“There were no big headlines flung across the front pages to tell the world of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The first news of his death carried in a Louisville newspaper was buried below a column of news regarding the War Between the States.

The few inches of type merely told in the language of the day that Lincoln had been shot the night before, while attending a theatre performance in the Capital and that he had died at 7:22 the following morning.

“There was no editorial comment relative to the tragedy that day. This was to come later and was to take the form of caution to the citizens not to talk too freely of the dead President and not to let party differences cause them trouble.

### Editorial Published Here.

“One of the few editorial statements praising Lincoln in any way carried in the Louisville newspapers at the time was the following:

“We believe that in the death of Mr. Lincoln the Rebels have lost their best friend in the administration at Washington.”

“This brief statement and a few others similar would not have covered the event if it had happened in this decade. Editorial columns would have been widened to show the public how important the event was, as was done at the death of Wilson.

“Lincoln was shot by an actor as he watched a performance in a Washington theatre. He hovered between life and death for several hours and died the following morning. The slayer succumbed while hiding in a barn which had been fired. An at-



tempt had been made at the same time to assassinate Secretary of State Seward and this official was seriously wounded.

“According to present-day judgments, it was one of the biggest newspaper stories in the history of the nation and it was published as though it were a mere matter of routine.

“The effect of Lincoln’s death, more far reaching than the passing of Wilson, was observed in Louisville similarly to the exercises for Wilson.

#### Celebrating Sumter’s Fall.

“Louisville was celebrating the anniversary of the fall of Fort Sumter the night Lincoln was shot.

“The description of the celebration as given by one of the newspapers was as follows: “On Friday night our city was alive with enthusiasm and excitement. The houses were brilliantly and handsomely decorated. Bonfires were burning. Rockets were shooting heavenward. Torpedoes were flung in all directions. Flags were unfurled and everybody was jubilant.

“But while they were rejoicing, how little did they dream, with hearts full of hope and glad tidings over the happy prospect of that peace, that ere another sun would set they, with the nation, would be mourning over the greatest national calamity that ever occurred in America—the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.”

“The news of the President’s death was received by telegraph in Louisville. In the language of the newspaper, a cloud of gloom and a veil of sorrow descended upon the city. There was a look of solemnity, mixed with doubt and surprise, stamped upon almost every countenance.

#### Business Was Suspended.

“Business was suspended. Streets were deserted. Military headquarters, offices and warehouses, public buildings and business houses were closed and draped in mourning before noon.

“The Police Court was in session when the message arrived and Col. Selby Harney, Acting Commonwealth’s Attorney, moved that the court be adjourned. The motion was seconded by J. H. Price and the court was adjourned until the following morning.

“Despite the fact that the message was received on Saturday, there was no hesitancy shown by the merchants in quitting business for the day. The following day was Easter Sunday and was marked by the firing of a cannon at half-hour intervals from sunrise to sunset.

“The following Tuesday, a funeral procession was held in Louisville at the same time that the President was being carried to his resting place in Washington.

“The citizens gathered at the Court House that night and held a service similar to that which was held for Wilson a few days before.

“Following the papers for a few days longer, it was found that all mention of the President’s assassination was left out after five day’s time.”

Immediately upon receipt of definite assurance that President Lincoln was dead, official notice of the event was taken in Kentucky. General John M. Palmer, Commander of the district issued his order on April 15, 1865, the day that Lincoln passed away. It was general order No. 23 and was published as follows beneath editorial comment on page three of the *Frankfort Commonwealth* of April 18, 1865.

#### General Palmer’s Order.

“This order, which will be found in another column, we commend to the attention of our readers. The sad announcement of our President’s death is most feelingly made. The few words which Gen. Palmer speaks are well, wisely, and truly spoken. His counsels to moderation and forbearance in view of the terrible wrong inflicted upon our land will commend themselves to every loyal man. His words of hope will find an echo in the hearts of all our people. And though the order is brief and simple, yet its spirit shows the spirit of the man who has been placed at the head of the Department of Kentucky, and leads us to trust in his wisdom and moderation in the conducting of all matters connected with his Depart-

ment. He will have the support of the people in his work.

Official from General Palmer

Headq'rs Department of Kentucky

Louisville, April 15, 1865.

General Order No. 23.

“The telegraph announced that President Lincoln was assassinated last night. The purest man of the age has fallen, and the whole nation which was rejoicing over the prospects of a speedy peace is mourning.

“Let the people of Kentucky disappoint the miscreants who would involve them in bloodshed and strife, by conducting themselves with calmness and moderation. Avoid all heated conversations and imprudent expressions. Let all unite in every means for preserving order.

“The wicked need not rejoice nor the patriotic despond. The Government will still go on, and as great as the calamity is, the country will accomplish its high destiny.

“By command of Maj. Gen. J. M. Palmer.  
E. B. Harlan, Capt. and A. A. G.”

In the same issue of the *Frankfort Commonwealth*, April 18, 1865, on page three was printed the proclamation of Governor Bramlette of Kentucky. This executive paper is dated April 17, 1865. In reading it one may do well to remember that at the outbreak of the Civil War Bramlette, a resident of Adair County, resigned



# LOUISVILLE DAILY UNION PRESS

VOL. I.

LOUISVILLE, KY., MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1865.

NO. 304

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
DAILY UNION PRESS.  
PUBLISHED BY JAMES A. FRANKS.  
No. 100 N. 2nd St. St. Louis, Mo.  
WEEKLY UNION PRESS.  
PUBLISHED BY JAMES A. FRANKS.  
No. 100 N. 2nd St. St. Louis, Mo.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
DAILY UNION PRESS.  
PUBLISHED BY JAMES A. FRANKS.  
No. 100 N. 2nd St. St. Louis, Mo.  
WEEKLY UNION PRESS.  
PUBLISHED BY JAMES A. FRANKS.  
No. 100 N. 2nd St. St. Louis, Mo.

IV TELEGRAPH.  
CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHIEF, JAMES A. FRANKS.  
PLATE PRESS BUILDING,  
N. CO. BLDG.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

The Union Press, published by James A. Franks, at the Plate Press Building, N. Co. Bldg., St. Louis, Mo. The paper is published daily, except on Sundays and public holidays. The price is five cents per copy, and in advance, for one year, \$5.00. For single copies, send the price in advance. The paper is published by James A. Franks, at the Plate Press Building, N. Co. Bldg., St. Louis, Mo. The paper is published daily, except on Sundays and public holidays. The price is five cents per copy, and in advance, for one year, \$5.00. For single copies, send the price in advance. The paper is published by James A. Franks, at the Plate Press Building, N. Co. Bldg., St. Louis, Mo. The paper is published daily, except on Sundays and public holidays. The price is five cents per copy, and in advance, for one year, \$5.00. For single copies, send the price in advance.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

MECHANICAL ADVERTISEMENTS  
GROCERIES.  
JAMES A. FRANKS,  
WHOLESALE GROCER,  
CINCINNATI, OH.

A KENTUCKY NEWSPAPER MOURNING LINCOLN'S DEATH  
(Facsimile of the Louisville Daily Union Press of April 17, 1865)





a lucrative circuit judgeship to organize the Third Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and was made its colonel. Lincoln recognized his ability and named him United States District Attorney of Kentucky to succeed James Harlan. In 1863 he was commissioned a Major General and later as the Union candidate for Governor was elected by a large majority. As the State's highest executive officer he was always regarded as fair to both sides of the many controversies and problems that came to him for solution. In 1864 he came to an open break with Lincoln and his Administration over military and political meddling in Kentucky. After the President's death, he eulogized him. In Bramlette one sees much that is typical of the red-blooded, outspoken, liberty-loving Kentuckian of his day.

#### Proclamation of the Governor.

“The attention of our readers is called to the following proclamation of the Governor. It is hoped that all our citizens will fully carry out the suggestions made, and that they will on the day proposed, abstain from all secular employments, consecrating the day to the memory of our late Chief Magistrate and to prayer for the bereaved nation and for him who has been so suddenly and solemnly called from the Presidential chair.

## STATE OF KENTUCKY

Executive Department

Frankfort, April 17, 1865.

“By the hand of an assassin a great grief has been brought upon our country. The Chief Magistrate of the Nation, the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, has fallen a victim to rebellious hate under the vengeful blow of an assassin. He has fallen at a time when his great qualities of humanity were so hopefully invoked for the healing of our National woes! With no stain of vindictive nature upon his soul—with a great heart of generous sympathies and broad humanities—his untimely fall has bowed a Nation’s head in mourning.

“On Wednesday, the 19th instant, at the hour of 12 O’clock, A. M. (the hour of his funeral), let every church bell be tolled throughout the Commonwealth; and on that day let all business be suspended and all business houses be closed, the public offices closed, and draped in mourning.

“The citizens of Kentucky are invoked to pay that homage to the National grief which such a great calamity inspires.

THOS. E. BRAMLETTE

Governor of Kentucky.”

In keeping with the universal feeling of sorrow and regret at the tragic death of President Lincoln, a spontaneous desire to express in written and permanent form took possession of the people in many of the larger municipalities in

Kentucky. At Louisville the Mayor, William Kaye issued a call for "citizens of all parties" to meet on the evening of April 18, 1865. This official summons was published in the *Louisville Daily Democrat* on page two of the day of the meeting and is as follows:

Public Meeting at the Courthouse.

"According to the desires of many citizens, I do hereby call a meeting of the people generally to assemble at the Courthouse, Tuesday evening, April 18th, at 7½ o'clock. The object of this meeting is to give some appropriate expression of public sentiment in view of the assassination of President Lincoln, and I earnestly invite all citizens of all parties to lay aside their partisan feelings, and considering this event in its true light as a great national calamity—a terrible crime and a burning disgrace to the age in which we live, and the institutions under which we have been nurtured—to come up and let us express ourselves as becomes the occasion. Gov. Bramlette has been invited, and is expected to be present.

Wm. Kaye, Mayor."

The *Frankfort Commonwealth* (Unionist) was alert and responsive to the new trend of thought in Kentucky with respect to Lincoln both personally and as the leader of the re-united country. On April 18, 1865, it published the following editorial on page three:

## President Lincoln.

“A terrible blow has fallen upon our nation, a deed of horror has been enacted that has filled us all with dread. We cannot yet realize that such a wicked, cruel act has been committed in our land—appalled by its cruelty and enormity we could not give credence to the report. But the fact is established now—Abraham Lincoln, our noble and beloved President, is dead, stricken down, unarmed, defenceless, and unwarned, by the hand of a rebel assassin.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. How hard it is to pen these words, how heart-rending is the thought to which they give birth, of the irreparable loss which the nation has sustained in the death of him who loved it and had given himself wholly to the work of effecting its salvation. For in the midst of his usefulness a good man has fallen, a true and pure patriot; a President who had done his duty well, with a conscience void of offense toward God and man, and who had ruled his people as a loving father, always tempering justice with mercy and always ready to succor and forgive.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. The awful fact which these few words convey has filled the land with mourning. How suddenly had it turned our joy to sadness, our gladness to grief. In the very midst of our rejoicing over the late triumph of the Union over the rebellion, of our joy in view of the ending of our civil strife, and of our thoughts and purposes of love towards those who have brought all

these troubles upon us at whose hands we have so greatly suffered, this crushing blow has come upon us, turning the light to darkness, our happiness to misery, our laughter to tears. God in mercy grant it may not, too, turn our thoughts of peace and love towards our enemies into purposes of deadly hate and implacable revenge.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. They have conspired against his life, have sought and taken it, towards whom he had not one thought of hate, to whom he had again and again made most gracious offers of peace and pardon, and for whose kind and merciful reception back to their old places in the Union, his last thoughts and work were given. Truly they knew not what they did—when Abraham Lincoln fell, the South lost its best and truest friend.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. He has fallen at his post, working for the restoration of the Union to its old harmony and prosperity. And in this work there was an earnest desire to serve his whole country. In his heart there was no hate of the rebellious South, no feeling of revenge on account of the terrible wrongs it had inflicted upon our happy land, no bitterness of spirit towards those who continually maligned and traduced him. By the bands of love he would draw back those of rebellion to their old allegiance. Thus have they rewarded him.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. He has given his life a sacrifice for ours. That the Union might be preserved and the enjoyment of life,



liberty and property be insured to us and our posterity, he called the people to arms after the blow struck at Sumter. For that, and for all that he has done well and wisely for the suppression of the rebellion, he has incurred the hatred of rebels in arms and their sympathizers in our midst. This hatred has bred vengeance, and vengeance has done its base, cowardly work in the assassination of our President. Thus he has laid down his life for ours—he has fallen a martyr to his country's cause, and in his country's memory his praise shall ever live.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. The nation lives. Our Government will still survive. He had led it safely through the dangers which threatened its existence and already every loyal heart has sung its “Hallelujah” for the happy deliverance and the bright prospect of peace. But our President, like Moses of old, was only permitted a glimpse of the promised day of peace and union, and then died. Now we sorrow, but not as those which have no hope. Our hope and faith, which have so long upheld the nation, yet remain;—the hope of peace which shall be enduring and true, faith in the justice of our cause and the permanency of the Union. So we shall live to bless the memory of him who saved his country and established it on foundations that can never be destroyed. Future generations will call him blessed.

“LINCOLN IS DEAD. Sad and terrible words! Gloom has settled down upon our hearts, sorrow is deep and unfeigned; we have all



lost a father and a friend. This truth all will yet learn and coupled with the remembrance of our country's trouble will always be the name of her deliverer, never spoken but with emotions of deepest love and tenderest regard—the name of Abraham Lincoln.”

On the succeeding day, April 19, 1865, the *Lexington Observer and Reporter*, which during the past five years had lost no opportunity to give vent to its Democratic and mildly anti-administration views published on page three an editorial and news item entitled

### ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

“A terrible calamity has befallen the Nation, in the death, by the hands of an assassin, of the President of the United States.

“The death of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic, at any time and from natural causes, is an event well calculated to excite feelings of profound regret and sorrow; but when that event is caused by the hand of a cowardly assassin, as was the death of Mr. Lincoln, it cannot but startle and appall the nation. Two of the sixteen persons who have by the voice of the people filled the first office in their bestowment—Gen. Harrison and Gen. Taylor—fell victims to disease while in office; for the first time, however, in the history of the Government has the President

of the Republic fallen under the cowardly and barbarous blow of the assassin. The whole thing is so strange, and so unaccountable, as at present advised, upon any recognized principle of human action, that the mind is simply left in amazement at its terrible reality.

“The particulars of the assassination, together with all the circumstances and speculations connected with it, are given, in our paper this morning. It seems that the President was assassinated in the private box which had been assigned to him, and which he and his wife occupied at the Theater on Friday evening; that the infamous deed was perpetrated in the presence of hundreds of persons; and that, in the excitement and confusion incident to the daring act, the assassin escaped. It also appears to be pretty conclusively established, that the assassination was perpetrated by J. Wilkes Booth, a young man of histrionic reputation, and it is said that evidence exists that the act was premeditated, and was to have taken place before the 4th of March last, when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term. What particular grievance this man had to avenge (if he had either real or imaginary), does not appear; nor can we well understand why he selected such a place to carry out his diabolical purpose. These things may all be explained in time, and we trust will be, so that the nation may not be left in doubt as to the real motive which actuated the commission of an act of barbar-

ity and cruelty, at the bare thought of which the heart grows sick.

“Mr. Lincoln, according to the estimate of all who knew him, and more especially of those who have ever had occasion to appeal to his clemency, was an amiable, genial, kind-hearted man. If he had personal enemies we were not aware of it; and however much men may have differed with him in regard to the policy pursued during his eventful administration, no one felt towards him the slightest animosity. This, together with the fact that his constitutional successor is understood to be not so generous in his views in reference to the great issues which agitate the public mind, renders this dreadful affair still more mysterious. In our estimation no more deplorable event could have befallen the Nation at the present momentous crisis than the melancholy one over which the nation now mourns. With far more acceptance than by any other man of his party would the important question now to be passed upon have been disposed of by him; and we shall rejoice if his successor shall be enabled to bring to a close the terrible struggle, which for four years has convulsed the nation, in a manner as free at least from all feelings of asperity and vengeance as it had been indicated it would be by the recent acts and opinions of Mr. Lincoln had he lived. Differing as we did with the deceased President upon many of the measures of his Administration, we yet do not hesitate to say that in our judgment he was a man of

remarkable mental endowments and possessed many excellencies of character. The Nation has seldom seen a sadder day than that on which Abraham Lincoln fell by the hand of an assassin.

“Since the above was in type we have the following information as communicated in the dispatches in yesterday’s papers. It appears that the assassination of the President was the result of a deep-laid conspiracy, and that the lives of the Vice President and every member of the Cabinet were to have been taken:

“WASHINGTON, April 17. The *Intelligencer* says it can state on the highest authority that it has been ascertained that there was a regular conspiracy to assassinate every member of the Cabinet, together with the Vice President. Booth, it is said, sent his card up to the Vice President, at his hotel, but Mr. Johnson could not conveniently see him.

“The names of the severally appointed assassins are, we understand, known. After the present investigations are concluded and published, the public will be astonished at the developments. From motives of public interest, we refrain from mentioning any of them that reach us.

“A member of the Cabinet remarked, on the day after the murder of Mr. Lincoln, that the rebels had lost their best friend; that Mr. Lincoln, invariably, at every Cabinet meeting counseled forbearance, kindness and mercy, toward these misguided men.”

When one considers the character of writing touching upon Lincoln previously published in these and most other Kentucky newspapers, the appearance of such editorial and news sentiments in the daily press is nothing short of truly remarkable. Throughout the four years of devastating strife as the movement of both Northern and Southern troops took place on the "neutral soil of Kentucky," reducing without favor the small farm and the great plantation, the name of Abraham Lincoln had become increasingly conspicuous in the news and editorial utterances of the Kentucky press. With the gradual impoverishment of the people of all classes, the growing stagnation of business and the mounting mortality of the time the newspapers had become more critical of the President whenever the turn of opportunity allowed of it.

News items were distorted to his discredit, and editorials took on a flavor of the contemptuous partisan, which would have been humorous if it had not been so tragically in earnest. Unionist papers such as the *Frankfort Commonwealth* and the *Louisville Daily Journal*, while holding high the banner of the Constitution and Union, had lost no chance to attack or criticize the President or members of his Cabinet, when their public acts or pronouncements in any considerable degree separated themselves from the most meticulous definition of their principles.



The Democratic *Lexington Observer and Reporter*, together with the Secessionist, *Frankfort Yoeman* and *Louisville Daily Courier*, which for a time was suppressed because of its virulent anti-Union tone, had been more or less colorless in opinion throughout the war due to enforced regulations of the military commanders of the Kentucky district. Only the very federal, *Louisville Daily Union Press*, published during the single year 1865, was 100 per cent loyal at all times. Now with the war at a virtual end, and Lincoln a corpse at the hands of an assassin, all of these papers—the *Courier* excepted—join in a common pean of personal and official praise, which strange as it may seem, has every appearance of genuine sincerity. The circumstance is truly remarkable, coming from Kentucky, though of course it had its counterpart most everywhere else in this country and in all civilized nations throughout the world.

On April 18, 1865, the *Frankfort Commonwealth* printed on page three, the appended account of the

### ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

“This terrible news was received by our community, on Saturday morning, with feelings of the most profound grief. Nearly every countenance was depicted with the deepest sorrow, for all felt that a great blow



has been inflicted on the land—that suddenly—so suddenly changing our rejoicings into lamentations and filling us with sadness over the great woe that has fallen upon us, that it was the more deeply felt and lamented. The correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* gives the following account of the awful deed, as obtained from Quartermaster General Meigs:

“About half past ten o’clock P. M., a man dressed in a dark suit and hat entered the private box in which Mr. Lincoln and his party consisting of Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, (daughter of Senator Harris), and Capt. Rathbone of Albany were seated. Immediately on opening the door, he advanced toward Mr. Lincoln with a six barrelled revolver in his right hand, and a bowie knife in his left. The President, who was intent upon the play, did not notice his intrusion and the gentleman who was seated beside him rose to inquire the reason of his entry. Before he had time to ask the assassin what he wanted, he fired one charge from his revolver, which took effect in the back of the President’s head. The ball passed through and came out at the right temple. Captain Rathbone attempted to arrest the murderer, and in trying to do so received a shot in his arm. The assassin then leaped from the box upon the stage. Before he disappeared behind the curtain, he turned, and with a tragic flourish and tone, waved his knife and shouted, “Sic semper tyrannis.”

“So sudden was the affair, that for some moments after its occurrence the audience supposed it was a part of the play, and was only undeceived when it was announced from the stage by the managers that the President of the United States had been shot. The shock fell upon the audience like a thunder bolt, and loud cries were immediately raised to kill or capture the assassin. The scene which ensued cannot be described. Men and women rushing for the doors, crying and shouting for vengeance on the murderer.

“The murderous emissary of the slave power escaped easily and rapidly from the theater, mounted a horse and escaped. The President who was insensible, was carried out and taken to a house opposite the theater. Mrs. Lincoln fainted in the box, and was borne out after her husband.

“The mass of the evidence to-night is that J. Wilkes Booth committed the crime.

“The following dispatch gives us the announcement of Mr. Lincoln’s death:

“War Department, Washington, April 15, 1865.—Maj. Gen. Dix: Abraham Lincoln died this morning, at twenty-two minutes after 7 o’clock.

“Edward M. Stanton,  
Secretary of War.”

“Of his death the *Star’s* extra says: “At 7:30 the President breathed his last, closing his eyes as if falling to sleep, and his countenance assuming an expression of perfect serenity. There were no indications of pain and it was not known that he was dead until

the gradually decreasing respiration ceased altogether.”

“So has passed away from earth a great and good man.

“*Sic semper tyrannis*,” his murderer shouted, yet never a man lived who had less of the tyrant in his nature—his was a loving heart and mercy ruled in all his acts. Truly during his administration did he weep with those who wept and rejoice with those who rejoiced. He loved his country and served her well. He now rests from his labors. May the peace and bliss of eternity be his.”

On April 18th a great public meeting was held in Louisville by people of all political faiths in honor of the national service of Abraham Lincoln and in commemoration of his untimely death. Resolutions were drawn and adopted. These with a news item covering the event were printed by the *Louisville Daily Democrat*, Thursday April 20, 1865, on page two.

#### Public Meeting at Courthouse Tuesday Night.

“There was a vast assemblage of people at the courthouse last night the object of which was to give some appropriate expression of public sentiment in view of the assassination of President Lincoln. There seemed to be a great deal of interest taken in the proceedings. After the crowd assembled Mayor Kaye called the meeting to order.

“Gov. Bramlette was appointed President, and Messrs. George D. Prentice and others were named as Vice Presidents of the meeting. Mr. L. A. Civil was chosen as Secretary.

“Gov. Bramlette stated the object of the meeting in a neat and very appropriate address. After he had concluded Maj. Gen. Palmer was loudly called for. The General arose and responded to the call in a splendid speech regarding the life of the President, and while he lamented the death of Mr. Lincoln he had faith and hope in the abilities of President Johnson to manage the affairs of the nation in future. He was often interrupted with cheers.

“Dr. T. S. Bell then arose and read the preamble and resolutions prepared for the occasion by the committee.

“Hon. James Guthrie addressed the meeting, after which they adjourned.

“The following is the preamble and resolutions read by Dr. Bell and unanimously adopted:

#### Report of the Committee on Resolutions.

“The people of Louisville assemble on this occasion to express their horror of the assassination of President Lincoln, and to renew their pledges of devotion to the principles of a free government, founded on a constitution framed by the people of the United States, and under the guidance and dominion of laws made by themselves.

“The Executive Department of this nation during the past four years, has given the people just grounds for confidence in that which constitutes the corner-stone of representative institutions—the capacity of the people to govern themselves. We have seen a man born in the lowliest, rise and grow in the affections of the people, and finally called by them to the loftiest position in human affairs. He had, apparently, none of that training that is supposed to be essential to proper management of great state exigencies; none of that ripe experience in governmental matters that gives promising assurances of success. Yet at his induction to the duties of Chief Magistrate, he was immediately environed by the most complex, subtle and almost inexplicable questions, upon the proper management of which depended the welfare, safety and prosperity of all that is dear to man. Upon these questions the greatest diversity of opinion prevailed among the ripest and most experienced statesman, but the man of the people met every emergency under the light of an unfaltering integrity, and with manifestations of a shrewd common sense that seemed superior to the experience of other men. The bitter school in which his statesmanship was nurtured, found him a patient, honest, apt scholar, and he grappled the highest emergencies of national affairs with an earnest, firm, courageous and unfaltering grasp. The people soon learned to trust him with a boundless confidence, and as the map of



grand, startling events gradually unrolled, the popular mind felt that "the pilot who could weather the storm" was at the helm. The angry surges of political antagonism billowed their forces against him, but broke into harmless spray at his feet, because his feet were firmly planted in the confidence of the people. Upon many of these measures which he inaugurated for the public safety that excited the most angry opposition at their inception, time has written the approval of the public judgment. He was free from those animosities that are often supposed to be inseparable from political power. His entire career may be searched in vain for a single record of the weakness of political anger. Towering above all other considerations was his honest devotion to the public good, and it is the glory, the honor, the crown of his useful life, that no human being ever felt the weight of the hand of power entrusted to him, except for the clear, unmistakable safety of the people. His purposes were singularly unselfish; all his aims were for the good of his country and the welfare of mankind, and his humanities were of the type that generations of men love to look upon in the history of the illustrious founder of the Dutch Republic and of him "who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his fellow-citizens." So meekly did Mr. Lincoln wear his great trusts, so patiently did he encounter all difficulties, so kindly, so gently, so humanely did he administer the powers that belonged to



the national trust confided to him, that he commanded the deep affections, the abiding confidence, the earnest devotion, not only of his own countrymen, but of all lovers of freedom throughout civilization

“This great depository of the powers of a great people, this illustrious exemplar of free institutions, this loving and lovable ruler of the mightiest nation of the earth was permitted to see from the Pisgah of successful wrestling in the field with the rebellion the near vision of the land of rest, flowing with milk and honey; but it was not given to him to enter upon the inheritance. At a moment when his own great heart was bounding joyously with the heart of the people in rejoicings over the immediate prospects of peace in the end of the rebellion he was stricken down by the hand of an assassin. From the heights of relief and joy we have been plunged into the depths of distress and mourning. In the agony of grief a nation takes up Hebrew inspiration and cries out: “The beauty of Israel is slain in thy high places. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battles.”

“But despotism, haters of the people’s sovereignty, have made their old and oft-repeated mistake in supposing that the march of a mighty people may be stayed by the destruction of their foremost ranks. Philip of Spain shocked the almost universal sentiment of mankind, and has received the execrations of subsequent generations, by his notorious Ban against William of

Orange, the leader of the Dutch Republic. He offered the most princely fortune, and a place among the nobility of Spain, to any one who would assassinate the great Republican champion of the Netherlands. He vainly flattered himself that the destruction of that light of freedom would enshroud the Dutch Republic in inextricable darkness. A spirit entirely akin to that which animated the gloomy, short-sighted malice of the despot of Spain has long compassed the life of the chosen champion of the American people. Pecuniary rewards and honors have been lavishly and publicly offered to any one that would take the life of President Lincoln, and the stupendous crime, under these published incentives, has been perpetrated.

“On the very day commemorated by a large portion of the Christian world, as the anniversary of the shedding of the blood of Christ\*, for no offense of his own, the blood of the President of the United States was shed for the faithful discharge of his high duties. It was a repetition of numerous efforts in the history of this nation, to obtain by violence what could not be gained by appeals to the reason, the judgment, the confidence of the people.

“Thank God, the march of a mighty people can not be stopped by the assassination of their leaders. Nothing short of the assassination of a whole people can arrest the progress of a nation of free men.

---

\*Good Friday, April 14, 1865.

“With hearts filled with earnest gratitude to Heaven for the loan of such a man as Abraham Lincoln to the exigencies of American affairs for the past four years, for even in that brief period his eminent virtues have been a rejoicing light in the paths of the people, we bow to the afflicting dispensation that has taken him from us. But we stand firm, with renewed determination not to be accessories to his murder by faltering for one moment in those duties to the public safety and common welfare, which he performed with one unshrinking courage, that commanded our love while he lived, and which shall be our example as he speaks from his untimely grave.

“The power of the American people displayed before the eyes of the world, in the calm, resolute, firm and patient manner in which the power they confided to Abraham Lincoln has been transferred to Andrew Johnson. The people confided in him when they renewed their trust in Mr. Lincoln. In the patriotic love of his country, in his faithful, fearless, earnest detestation of the rebellion against the American people, Andrew Johnson has won the esteem and confidence of the nation. From the past, we trust him for the future.

“In the presence of the great events before us, be it

“Resolved, That we, citizens of Kentucky, tender to our fellow-citizens of the nation, and to all advocates of free institutions throughout the world, our profound

sense of the calamity that has fallen upon the friends of human rights and of the afflictive bereavement of the United States in the assassination of President Lincoln.

“Resolved, That we recognize in Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, the embodiment of the national will, and that we will give him all the support in our power for the preservation of the national Union, and through integrity of the national domain, and the perpetuation of representative institutions. In view of the great national sorrow over the assassination of President Lincoln we are consoled in the knowledge that the sceptre of national authority has passed into lineal hands, whose past devotion of his country fore-shadows a continuance of patriotic labors that will enure to the national welfare.

“Resolved, That we earnestly counsel our fellow-citizens, in the frequent exasperating circumstances that may encircle them, to remember the dignity, decency, majesty and patience of a government of the people. Let the laws redress all grievances.

“Resolved, That while we know how meager are any measures of condolence to the family of President Lincoln in the mighty flood of sorrow that has rolled upon them, we cannot withhold from them our profoundest sympathies in the great affliction that has befallen them. In common with the rest of the nation, we extend them our condolences in the irreparable loss they have sustained.

“Resolved, That on Wednesday, the 19th instant, we devote ourselves to testimonials of respect for the memory of President Lincoln, in humiliation before God and in seeking His worship and in searching His inspiration for consolation, light and guidance in the darkness that has come upon us as a nation.

“Resolved, That all the associations of the city Masons, Odd Fellows, Turners and other organizations be invited to join the military in procession, with suitable badges of mourning and regalia, and that Wm. Vogt, E. Mittler and E. D. Deitzman act as a committee to secure the co-operation of the German citizens.

“Resolved, That a manuscript copy of these proceedings, signed by the Chairman and Secretaries, be sent to Mrs. Lincoln.

“Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the papers of this Commonwealth.

T. S. Bell,  
George Baber,  
Kemp Goodloe,  
Martin Bijur.”

The address of Governor Bramlette before the public meeting at Louisville on April 18th, was printed as follows by *The Frankfort Commonwealth*, on page two, April 21st, 1865.

### OUR LATE PRESIDENT.

“Fellow-citizens of Louisville: As the



Chief Executive of the noble and loyal State of Kentucky, I have thought it was not only not inapt, but exceedingly appropriate that I should be present upon this occasion and unite with the people of Louisville, the greatest city of Kentucky, in giving utterance and expression to the deep and solemn grief which, like a pall, has come over our country, brought upon it by the hand of a wicked assassin. Tonight fellow-citizens, a deep and solemn woe has swept over our great nation. The heart of the people of this great republic of ours, torn, rent, desecrated as it has been by rebellion, yet now is moved with deep and desolating grief at the great existing loss which our country has sustained in the death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. I waive the quantum of the sin of his assassination, and look at it only in a national point of view, as the loss of the head, the chief of our great nation, filled with all his great and high qualities and purposes for the future. I feel that I am not alone giving expression to my own sentiments but to those of the great mass of the people of the United States, which I say that at this particular time in the history of our country's struggle to maintain the nation's life, we have no man within the broad limits of the Union who could have been relied upon with more confidence than Abraham Lincoln. He was a man honest and utterly without guile, a man of broad, comprehensive, and great practical intellect; a man over whose soul the dark clouds of malevol-



ence had never swept, the chambers of whose heart were kept free from the pride of position and power and filled only with the pure thought and excellence of true manhood.

“He was a man full of charity, bright and unsullied, with nothing of that bitterness that enters into the composition of so many of our fellow-citizens at this time and other times; but he was a man for these troublous times, to dispense the mighty power the Chief Executive holds, to overcome and subdue a rebellious people. How few there are who possess that extended charity that belonged to him! No man has ever seen him, from the beginning of this trouble to the hour of his death, moved with anger. We saw him calm, placid, and equable in temper, strong in his sentiments and comprehensive of his views. We may differ with him, and have differed with him, but when the judgment of future events has come, we find we were differing blindly; that he was right and we were wrong. (Cheers). Standing as we did in local positions, surrounded as we were by local prejudices, he occupied an elevated stand-point and viewed the whole political surroundings of the country, grasping with massive intellect the logic of events, and gave us nothing but what he regarded the logic of events in his Administration.

“I say such is the conviction which I have of the man. He was himself faultless in purpose, and while we differed, we could not quarrel with him.

“We were so deeply impressed with the

honesty, integrity and purity of the man, that he was raised above all suspicion of selfishness. We therefore, I may repeat again, have sustained a deep and untimely loss in the death of Abraham Lincoln, and well may the people be moved with solemn woe, when the announcement of such an unfortunate disaster as this comes upon the country; one which almost crushes the buoyant hopes which had been raised by our recent victories over rebellion.

“But while we mourn the death of the Chief Executive of our Nation, we should remember, that the life of this great country of ours is not dependant upon the life of even our greatest man. That life is in the heart of the Nation, and you must destroy the people before you can destroy this Government of ours (applause). Its course is onward, onward. No assassin’s knife can reach the life of this people (cheers).

“Dissever the Union? No, wither the hand  
That would lop but one twig from our “liberty tree”.  
Dissever the Union? No, by it we’ll stand,  
While our hearts glow with pride and our children  
are free.

“Twas planted in blood of its friends and its foes,  
And the spirits of those who defended it then  
Will rally anew from their ‘wakened repose,  
To cherish, protect and defend it again.”

“Our country lives, and while it lives we will deeply mourn the loss of our chief executive, and place the seal of eternal condemnation upon the memory of the assassin who struck him down. We will honor the memory and do justice, to the full extent,

to the high, noble, and patriotic hand that tried to achieve the maintenance of this Union, and the preservation of the life of our nation.

“The name and cause of Mr. Lincoln will go down to future ages as part of the record of our country. He has guided our vessel of state through one of the stormiest periods that has ever visited a race of men, and has paid with his life the price of his triumph. Who is there who can say that that vessel could have been more safely guided or directed than it has been under his administration. You and I may have thought at times that he should have directed it this way and that way, yet he has kept his course on and on.

“His course has been marked by the honest purposes of preserving the institutions of our country—to preserve all that is worth preserving and that could possibly be preserved from the wreck of this revolution. We cannot deny, fellow-citizens, that a revolution has swept over our country. The man who profits not by experience and observation, ought not to keep a political position among men, but should retire to the seclusion of those who have not capacity to learn in the ordinary school of life. He who will deny facts as presented to his conviction is not wise. He must accept and act upon them if he would be a wise man and prudent statesman.

“If he cannot divert and control facts, he must not seek to guide and direct the ship

of state, when evils threaten to overthrow and destroy. Such was Abraham Lincoln's wisdom and course. As I have remarked, we may differ with him and have done so, but experience and time has demonstrated that his was the only line of salvation for our country. (Cheers). Then let the heart of the people go up in solemn mourning for the loss of such a man. We have other men—great men, and patriotic men—but we have no more Abraham Lincolns. Let American hearts throb in memory of the great and good man—the chief of our nation—who has untimely fallen by the hand of a wicked assassin, to the grief and endangerment of the hopes of the country.—Let all attribute to him the credit and glory to which his services entitles him, for preserving to the people the blessings of their free institutions—the purchase of their father's blood.

“Our country lives! Let the freeman enjoy the blessings of their country, and associate with its preservation the name and services of Abraham Lincoln.”

The *Frankfort Commonwealth* was so sufficiently pleased by Governor Bramlette's speech at the Louisville Lincoln meeting that in its April 21st issue on page 3 it said:

“We ask the particular attention of all of our readers to the speech of Gov. Bramlette at the Louisville meeting on Tuesday evening last. We believe every sentiment

uttered by the Governor upon that occasion will receive a hearty, affirmative response by a vast majority of the people of Kentucky.”

Excerpts of editorials relative to Lincoln's assassination from the *New York Times*, *The Herald*, *The Tribune*, *The World*, *The New York Post* and the *Commercial Advertiser* are found on page two of the April 21st issue of the *Frankfort Commonwealth*, the Frankfort semi-weekly published by A. G. Hodges & Co.

Taking further note of the death of the President, on April 21st, 1865, Governor Bramlette by proclamation set aside Thursday, May 4th, as a day of “fasting, humiliation and prayer.” This executive paper was published on page three of *The Frankfort Commonwealth* of April 25th, 1865.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Executive Department

Frankfort, April 21, 1865.

“In view of the sad calamity which has fallen upon our country by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States of America, it becomes us as a people to humble ourselves before a Merciful God, and pray Him that the sin of our people, which has culminated in such great crime, be forgiven, and we purged from our iniquity, and be again restored to His favor,

and to peace and unity amongst ourselves.

“For this purpose, Thursday, the 4th day of May, 1865, is hereby appointed as a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer.

“On that day the people of Kentucky are invoked to suspend all secular business, and at the usual hour of service, attend their respective places of worship, and engage in the solemn and earnest observance of the day as one for humiliation before God, and prayer for His forgiving mercy and sustaining grace, in this our day of affliction.”

Thos. E. Bramlette,  
Governor of Kentucky.

Eight days after the death of Lincoln and two days following his funeral the *Frankfort Commonwealth* published on page three of its issue of April 21st, 1865 a thoughtfully written editorial, which affords a wide contrast of view when compared as printed below with its “run” of political expression during the years 1860 and 1861, some gauge of which has already been presented within these covers.

### PRESIDENT LINCOLN’S DEATH.

“Since the assassination of President Lincoln the loyal States have all united to do honor to his memory. Men of all parties, and of all shades of opinion, have now their words of praise to speak, and they bear testimony of the great worth and



vitruue of the fallen martyr. The opposition press, so far as we are able to speak of it, where they have not kept silent on the subject, have spoken in terms of regret and grief, and paid homage to the character and acts of the murdered President. It is a sad and awful thought that if all this truth had been spoken in Mr. Lincoln's life-time we might not now be mourning over his untimely death. Of set purpose, Southern leaders, with the base mendacity systematically pursued in the whole course of the rebellion, have persistently represented Mr. Lincoln in the blackest characters, branding all his acts, from his assumption of the Presidential office on to his death, as tyrannical, and himself as a despot and a tyrant. The Southern people, always led by their politicians, have believed the infamous slander, in great measure, and so have treasured up feelings of hate and vengeance against the person of our President. And the opposition press of our country have aided and abetted this feeling by their incendiary publications against the acts and character, both public and private, of Mr. Lincoln. In times of peace public men may be assailed and charged with crimes of most heinous character without their incurring any danger of personal harm. But not so in times like these which for the past four years have been upon us. During these years, the nation has been stirred to its utmost depths; men's passions have been most easily

wrought upon and inflamed; the utterances of the press and the words of public men have not fallen unheeded, but have taken deep root in men's hearts, either for good or ill. We believe that the persistent persecution of Mr. Lincoln, the impugning of all his motives, the maligning of all his deeds, and the holding him up on all occasions, and before the world, as a tyrant, both by the opposition press and by public men in our midst has resulted in his death. The deliverance of the nation from the rule of such a despot, would be hailed with delight by the whole people—hence men deluded by this idea could be found and used by the leaders of the rebellion for the carrying out their base designs. History tells us that the popularity of Henry the Fourth, of France, “continually contested during his life, was only clearly and fully revealed at his death.” When taken out for execution, Ravallac, his murderer, was surprised at the rage of the populace against him. “He appeared thunder-struck; he expected to have been hailed as a deliverer, for having pierced the heart of the monarch.” Such we believe is today the surprise and astonishment of the murderers of our lamented President—such the expectation that nerved them for their infamous and cruel deed.

“We have, then, been taught in a most terrible, yet impressive manner, a lesson which all our people should take well to heart. Had the truth, which is now welling

up from the hearts of Mr. Lincoln's traducers, always been spoken by them, he would have been the last man to have met the doom he has—had it spoken as now it speaks, our President had not died. In the presence of the dead, slander has hidden itself—but this cannot bring him back to us again. "Speak no evil of the dead" is the common sentiment of mankind; but if we would speak no evil of the living we should not so often be called to mourn for the dead. In this sad case which has plunged a nation in grief this is eminently true. Let all take warning for the future."

The following day, April 22, 1865, the *Louisville Daily Journal*, edited by that able Unionist but frequently scornful anti-Lincoln champion George D. Prentice, said editorially on page two:

"The popular demonstrations throughout the loyal States since the lamented death of President Lincoln have evinced not only a feeling of profound respect for the character and memory of the illustrious dead, but a sublime national spirit, which, even in the midst of so much public sorrow, should gratify every American heart. The common expression of anguish has been universally attended by earnest declarations of faith in the enduring character of our free institutions, founded, as they are, upon an enlightened popular will. The Republic

has lost a great and true friend, but its broad, deep life has not been stayed.

“It was the old saying of Martin Luther, that “God buried his workman, but their work goes on.” Thus, the highest official may suddenly fall at his post, and the hearts of the people may be lowly bowed in grief, yet the nation itself, of which he was the chief representative, will steadily move on in its upward course. No one man, however great his brain, or pure his heart, or beloved by the people themselves, can be indispensable to the destinies of this Republic. Andrew Johnson today guides the councils of the same unconquerable nation over which Abraham Lincoln presided. Our marts of commerce are busy as ever, our armies are still strong and determined, our navy rules the ocean with imperial sway, the mightiest rebellion in history is crumbling before the flag, while our public credit is gaining daily in public confidence.

“Individual manhood is apt to be strengthened and elevated by the sense of an unmerited wrong, and, thereby, enabled, with heroic endurance, to meet the perils of life; and a nation, when stricken by the hand of undeserved hate, meant to destroy its fame, will rise in conscious rectitude to vindicate its honor, and strike the offender with invincible power. The brutal assassination of President Lincoln, while it has bereaved the public heart, has also, from the moment of its occurrence, increased the resolve of the loyal American people to re-



C. CAUFIELD & SHOOK

**THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL NEAR HODGENVILLE**

This Granite Temple enshrines the humble Log Cabin in which  
Abraham Lincoln was born on Nolin Creek in Larue  
County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809.







store the nation's authority wherever its old jurisdiction pertains. This sudden and atrocious deed is felt as a blow at the integrity of the country itself, and hence the new impetus given to popular expressions of devotion to the Government of the Union. And every foreign power, having recovered from the shock produced by the act of the cowardly and inhuman assassin, will contemplate the spectacle thus presented with awe and admiration."

The *Frankfort Commonwealth* on April 25, 1865, printed the following appreciative Lincoln editorial on page three.

#### THE NATION'S BEREAVEMENT.

"In another column will be found under this title a true and just tribute to the memory of our late President which will commend itself to the attention and approbation of all of our readers. It is a sketch of the character of Mr. Lincoln which is true to the life. All who have known him, who have been brought into the charmed circle of his presence, who have studied well his life and acts during the years of his Administration of the Government, will testify to the power, the courage, the honesty, the patriotism, the moral principle, the modesty and the tenderness of Mr. Lincoln, in all his dealings with the rebellion, and in all matters connected with it. He was evidently

a man raised up by the King of Kings for the work committed to him, and called by Him to conduct the affairs of our Republic in the terrible times through which it has just been passing. The scorned "rail-splitter," the sneered-at "village attorney," took in his hands the reins of Government and guided it successfully, through all the dangers and horrors of civil war, to permanency and prosperity and peace. None but a great man, in the true sense of the word, could have done this. But it is not our purpose to write an eulogium on Mr. Lincoln's character and work. Others have done it better than we can, and we call attention to the one republished in another column."

Prentice in Louisville, able editor and newspaper man that he was, continuing to note the tidal wave of pro-Lincoln thought and posthumus appreciation that was at the time sweeping the country, grabbed a splendid editorial written for and appearing in the very Southern *Richmond Whig*, and reprinted it verbatim in the editorial column on page one of his *Daily Journal* of April 27, 1865.

#### THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT.

"Assassination of President Lincoln.—The heaviest blow which has ever fallen upon the people of the South has descended, Abraham Lincoln, the President of the

United States, has been assassinated! The decease of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, at any period is an event which profoundly affects the public mind, but the time, manner, and circumstances of President Lincoln's death render it the most momentous, the most appalling, the most deplorable calamity which has ever befallen the people of the United States.

“The thoughtless and vicious may effect to derive satisfaction from the sudden and tragic close of the President's career; but every reflecting person will deplore the awful event. Just as everything was happily conspiring to a restoration of tranquility, under the benignant and magnanimous policy of Mr. Lincoln, comes this terrible blow. God grant that it may not rekindle excitement or inflame passion again.

“That a war, almost fratricidal, should give rise to bitter feelings and bloody deeds in the field was to be expected, but that the assassin's knife and bullet should follow the great and best loved of the nation in their daily walk, and reach them when surrounded by their friends, is an atrocity which will shock and appall every honorable man and woman in the land.

“The secrecy with which the assassin or assassins pursued their victims indicates that there were but few accomplices in this inhuman crime. The abhorrence with which it is regarded on all sides will, it is hoped, deter insane and malignant men from the

emulation of the infamy which attaches to this infernal deed.

“We cannot pursue this subject further. We contemplate too deeply and painfully the terrible aspects of this calamity to comment upon it further.”

In the same issue of April 27, 1865 the *Louisville Journal* carried an Associated Press item from New York relative to George Bancroft's eulogy of Lincoln.

New York, April 26.

“Mr. Bancroft, in his remarks last evening, speaking of Mr. Lincoln, said in part: ‘His remains as they are borne in solemn procession over our great rivers, along the seaside, beyond the mountains, and across the prairie, to their final resting place in the valley of the Mississippi, the echoes of his funeral knell throughout the world and the friends of freedom of every language, in every clime, will mourn. The members of the Government which precede his administration opened the gates of treason, and he closed them when he went to Washington. The ground on which he stood shook under his feet, and he left the republic on solid foundations. Traitors had seized the public forts and arsenals; he had recovered them for us. The capital, which he found the abode of slaves, is now only the abode of the free. The boundless public element which was engraved in every

truly great measure held for the diffusion of slavery and now devoted to freedom. These men talked of balance of power in the Republic between slave States and free States, and now their foolish words are blown away forever by the breath of Maryland, Missouri, and Tennessee. The atmosphere is now clearer than ever before, and insurrection is vanishing away. The country is cast into another mold, and the gigantic system of wrong, which has been at work for more than centuries, is dashed down, we hope, forever. As for himself personally, he was then scoffed at by the proud as unfit for his station; and, now, against the usage of later years, and in spite of numerous competitions, he was the unbiased and undoubted choice of the American people for second term of service. Through all the baseness of treason he retained the sweetness of a most peaceable disposition of myriads of our best men on the battlefield, and the more terrible destruction of our men in captivity by torture of exposure and starvation had never been able to provoke him into harboring one revengeful feeling or one purpose of cruelty. How shall the nation most completely show its horror at Mr. Lincoln's death? How shall it best honor his memory? There can be but one answer. Grief must take character of action, and breathe forth in assertion of the policy to which he fell a sacrifice. The standard on which he held his hand must be uplifted again

higher than before, and must be carried above everything else. His emancipation proclamation must be affirmed and maintained. Events have removed doubts of its legality and binding force.

“Mr. Bancroft incidentally alluded to the usurpation of the Executive power by General Sherman, saying, from this bad act which the people, with a united voice condemn, no great evil will follow save the shadow on his own fame. He referred to President Johnson to whom it remains to consummate the vindication of our Union.”

Reminiscences favorable and interpretative of Lincoln's mental and personal characteristics soon made their appearance in the Kentucky press, straws before the wind of much of this type of writing which was to follow here as well as elsewhere. The *Louisville Journal* published the following in its issue of April 28, 1865 on page one.

#### A POEM RECITED BY MR. LINCOLN.

—To the Editors of the *Evening Post* :

“I have been urged by several friends to send you the inclosed poem, written down by myself from Mr. Lincoln's lips, and although it may not be new to all of your readers, the events of the last week give it now a peculiar interest.

“The circumstances under which this



copy was written are these: I was with the President alone one evening in his room, during the time I was painting my large picture at the White House, last year. He presently threw aside his pen and papers, and began to talk to me of Shakespeare. He sent little "Tad," his son, to the library to bring a copy of the plays, and then read to me several of his favorite passages, showing genuine appreciation of the great poet. Relapsing into a sadder strain, he laid the book aside, and leaning back in his chair, said:

"There is a poem which has been a great favorite with me for years, which was first shown to me when a young man by a friend, and which I afterward saw and cut from a newspaper and learned by heart. I would", he continued, "give a great deal to know who wrote it, but I have never been able to ascertain."

"Then, half closing his eyes, he repeated to me the lines which I inclose to you. Greatly pleased and interested, I told him I would like if ever an opportunity occurred, to write them down from his lips. He said he would sometime try to give them to me. A few days afterward he asked me to accompany him to the temporary studio of Mr. Swayne, the sculptor, who was making a bust of him at the Treasury Department. While he was sitting for the bust, I was suddenly reminded of the poem, and said to him, that then would be a good time to dictate it to me. He complied, and

sitting upon some books at his feet, as nearly as I can remember, I wrote the lines down, one by one, from his lips.

“With great regard, very truly, yours,  
“F. B. Carpenter.

“OH, WHY SHOULD THE SPIRIT OF MORTAL BE  
PROUD?

“Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?  
Like a swift, fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud,  
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,  
He passeth from life to his rest in the grave.

The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,  
Be scattered around and together be laid;  
And the young and the old, and the low and the high,  
Shall moulder to dust and together shall lie.

The infant a mother attended and loved;  
The mother that infant's affection who proved;  
The husband that mother and infant who blessed,  
Each, all, are away to their dwellings of rest.

The hand of the king that the sceptre hath borne;  
The brow of the priest that the mitre hath worn;  
The eye of the sage and the heart of the brave,  
Are hidden and lost in the depth of the grave.

The peasant, whose lot was to sow and to reap;  
The herdsman, who climbed with his goats up the steep;  
The beggar, who wandered in search of his bread,  
Have faded away like the grass that we tread.

So the multitude goes, like the flower or the weed  
That withers away to let others succeed:  
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,  
To repeat every tale that has often been told.

For we are the same our fathers have been;  
We see the same sights our fathers have seen—  
We drink the same stream and view the same sun—  
And run the same course our fathers have run.

The thoughts we are thinking our fathers would think;  
From the death we are shrinking our fathers would  
shrink;  
To the life we are clinging they also would cling,  
But it speeds from us all like a bird on the wing.

They loved, but the story we cannot unfold;  
They scorned, but the heart of the haughty is cold;  
They grieved, but no wail from their slumber will come;  
They joyed, but the tongue of their gladness is dumb.

They died, aye! they died; we things that are now,  
That walk on the turf that lies over their brow,  
And make in their dwellings a transient abode,  
Meet the things that they met on their pilgrimage road.

Yea, hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,  
We mingle together in sunshine and rain;  
And the smile and the tear, the song and the dirge,  
Still follow each other, like surge upon surge.

'Tis the wink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breath;  
From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,  
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud—  
Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud!"

An analysis of this version of the poem by the celebrated Scotch bard, William Knox (1789-1825) as purported to have been taken from the lips of Mr. Lincoln gives every evidence in support of Mr. Carpenter's assertions. It is generally known that the President had committed at least considerable portions of the melancholy, "Mortality," during his youth—about the time of Ann Rutledge's death—and that he admired it greatly. Such errors as would naturally creep into the memorization of a poem of no little repute that had been so shabily treated as to be published anonymously, are present in this version. To mention only a few, "flitting" in the original first verse has become "fleeting" as given by Lincoln. "Crumble" as written by the poet is "moulder" in the second stanza recited by the President. Likewise Knox's "child" in the third stanza in Lincoln's "infant."

Furthermore the President omits completely stanzas four and seven as penned by the Scottish bard and thus continues throughout the entire fourteen verses to alter and improvise upon the original writing. As might be expected the errors in punctuation are greater in import and number than in the diction of the lines. When one considers how Lincoln obtained this poetical composition—like much of his literary education from small and indifferently edited prairie county weeklys—the wonder is not that the errors are so numerous, but rather that the rendition is so good.

The *Frankfort Commonwealth* in its review of the news of the day in its issue of May 9, 1865, gives on page three some account of the funeral of President Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois and the part played by the Kentucky delegation which was headed by Governor Bramlette. A brief record of the sorrowful impression made in Europe by the receipt of the news of the tragic death of the great Emancipator is also included in this sketch which follows.

“The remains of President Lincoln were deposited in their final resting place on Thursday last. The ceremonies were most imposing and solemn. Bishop Simpson of the Methodist church, delivered the funeral oration. The exhibition of affection for

their late fellow-citizen made by the people of Springfield, was fervent and touching; it was well expressed by a motto displayed in the State House square.

“He left us upheld by our prayers,

He returns to us embalmed in our tears.”

“The remains of our beloved President now rest in the grave. His memory is entombed in the hearts of his people. There will it be cherished so long as there is virtue in the people to discern what is great and good and noble and loving. May it incite all to emulate his example and henceforth to live and act *“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right.”*

“The news of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln reached Europe on the 28th ult., and produced great excitement and indignation. The Italian Chamber of Deputies adopted an address expressing their grief. The chamber was draped in his honor.

“In the English Parliament notice was given, on behalf of Lord Palmerston, that on the 1st of May they would move an address to the Queen expressing sorrow and indignation at the murder, and praying her to convey that expression of feeling to the American Government. Two great meetings were held at Liverpool at which speeches were made and resolutions passed expressive of their horror and deep sorrow at the murder. At Paris the most profound and universal regret and indignation was expressed.

“The Secessionists of Charleston were mad with delight on hearing of the assassination of President Lincoln. It is stated that the women fell on their knees and expressed thanks to God for this enormous crime. The prayers went downward and friends rejoiced over their certain prey. Never another prayer of theirs will reach Heaven.

“The London Times says that notwithstanding the strong sympathy felt for the South at Liverpool, the news of the defeat and surrender of Lee was received with great satisfaction. It acknowledged the end of the rebellion has come and the great American war is virtually closed by the surrender of Lee’s army . . .

“The Governor and his suite returned from Springfield on Friday last. They were well pleased with their trip, and were well received and entertained at the different cities on the route. At Chicago, Springfield and Lafayette the hospitality of the people was highly complimentary and gratifying and will long be remembered by its recipients.

“This token of respect paid by Kentucky to the memory of Mr. Lincoln was well merited by the illustrious dead. Not only was he one of Kentucky’s sons but he regarded his native State with a high degree of affection and did all that he could do to insure her welfare and to strengthen her in her allegiance to the Union. He invariably listened with defer-



ence to her complaints; her grievances were attentively considered and where they in reality existed the cause was immediately removed. His political enemies were always kindly received by him and when their requests were just and proper they were promptly granted. Yet, in no loyal State had such personal abuse been heaped upon him—as a man and as a ruler he was unmercifully maligned and ridiculed and persecuted.

“Even to speak of him with respect was to subject ones self to the same senseless and wicked abuse. Mr. Lincoln knew all this, but the knowledge was never admitted to his memory. It never enkindled malice—it never soured the kindliness of the father’s heart toward his erring children. He served Kentucky faithfully and justly to the end. And when he died she lost her best and truest friend.

“The tribute paid, then, by Governor Bramlette, in behalf of the State, to the character and worth of the lamented President, was eminently just and merited. It was fitting that at his grave Kentucky should thus bear testimony to the nation’s great loss, and that she should there renew her fealty to the old Union in the presence of the sacred dust of him who has proved its savior. And now as the grave has received his honored remains let us all again listen to and follow the injunction he laid upon the people of the Union in his last Inaugural Address: “With malice toward

none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.”

“Then shall he, though dead, still speak and act, and thus shall his loved country live and prosper.”

The truth and importance of the words of George Bancroft uttered in his eulogy of President Lincoln, became more impressive and apparent as time passed. On May 9, 1865, the *Frankfort Commonwealth* published the following excerpt on page two.

### THE MARTYR PRESIDENT

“Hon. George Bancroft, in his eulogy on President Lincoln said:

“To that Union Abraham Lincoln has fallen a victim. His death, which was meant to sever it beyond repair, binds it more closely and more firmly than ever. The blow aimed at him, was not aimed at the native of Kentucky, not at the citizen of Illinois, but at the man who as President, in the executive branch of the government, stood as the representative of every man in the United States. The object of the crime was the life of the whole people; and it

wounds the affections of the whole people. From Maine to the southwest boundary on the Pacific, it makes us one.

“The country may have needed an imperishable grief to touch its inmost feeling. The grave that receives the remains of Lincoln, receives the martyr to the Union, the monument which will rise over his body will bear witness to the Union; his enduring memory will assist during countless ages to bind the States together, and to incite to the love of our one undivided, individual country. Peace to the ashes of our departed friend, the friend of his country and his race. Happy was his life, for he was the restorer of the republic; he was happy in death for the manner of his end will plead forever for the union of the States and the freedom of man.”

Continuing its interest in the various tributes to Abraham Lincoln, the *Frankfort Commonwealth* reprinted from the *Daily (Union) Press* of May 17, the following news item in its issue of May 26, 1865 on page two.

!

The Louisville Proceedings on the death of Mr. Lincoln.

“It will be remembered that at the meeting of the citizens of Kentucky held in this city to offer a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Lincoln, it was resolved that a copy of the address and resolutions should be sent in manuscript, signed by Governor

T. E. Bramlette and the secretaries, to Mrs. Lincoln. They were beautifully copied by Mr. Ewing, clerk of the Board of Enrollment, and tastefully ornamented with a bow of black ribbon by Mrs. Raible, and committed to the charge of Dr. L. B. Todd, postmaster at Lexington, Ky., to be presented to Mrs. Lincoln. The following from the *Springfield Journal* shows Dr. Todd's discharge of the duty intrusted to him.

"A day or two after the assassination of President Lincoln, a meeting of leading citizens of Kentucky was held at Louisville, at which a series of appropriate resolutions was adopted expressive of their profound regret in view of the sorrowful event, and tendering their condolence to the afflicted family of the deceased President. These resolutions were entrusted to Dr. L. Beecher Todd, of Lexington, Ky., a member of the Kentucky delegation, and a relative of President Lincoln's family, by whom they were presented in person to Capt. Robt. Lincoln, on the arrival of the latter in this city, instead of being placed in the hands of Capt. N. W. Edwards, as a paragraph in the *Chicago Tribune* of a day or two ago stated it was his intention to do.

"None have shown a more profound regret for the fate of President Lincoln than the loyal citizens of his native State. Gov. Bramlette was deeply affected by his death, and in a speech delivered in Louisville a day or two after the assassination, after recounting the prominent act of Pres-

ident Lincoln's administration, and alluding to the opposition which his policy had met in Kentucky he frankly acknowledged that his opponents had been wrong and Mr. Lincoln right. The Governor, accompanied by his staff and a large delegation, amounting in all to about sixty persons, joined the funeral cortege at Indianapolis, whence they accompanied it to Chicago and finally to this city, chartering a car for that purpose. Next to Illinois, President Lincoln's home, no State has surpassed Kentucky in the respect it has shown to his memory."

The Legislature of Kentucky called into special session by Governor Bramlette in May was not slow to give official expression of its regret and sorrow. On May 20, 1865 Resolution No. 78 providing for the appointment of a committee to draft the appropriate resolutions was approved and six days later the work of this committee was also approved, thereby putting Kentucky, his native State, squarely on record as appalled by the nature of this "national calamity" resultant upon the assassination of her great son Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. These two resolutions follow verbatim.

#### No. 78.

RESOLUTION appointing Joint Committee to prepare Resolutions in regard to

the death of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States.

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

“That a joint committee of Seven, composed of four members of the House of Representatives and three from the Senate, to be raised by the appointment of their respective Speakers, to prepare and present resolutions expressing the deep abhorrence which this State feels at the murder of Abraham Lincoln, Esq., late President of the United States, and its profound sorrow at this great national calamity.

Approved May 20, 1865.

No. 82.

“RESOLUTION touching the murder of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.

“In the murder of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, a great crime has been committed, whereby a great national calamity has occurred.

“The nation justly abhors the crime and deeply deplores the calamity.

“It is proper that all the people should condemn without reserve this tragic and terrible occurrence; wherefore,

“The people of the State of Kentucky, through their Representatives in the General Assembly here convened, declare in the most solemn manner their thorough condemnation of this atrocious and most wicked murder, and their sincere sorrow for that



event which spreads gloom over the people of all the States, and amounts in the fullest sense to a national calamity.

“Mr. Lincoln was called to and occupied the presidential chair at and during a time of great national difficulty, embarrassment, and danger.

“In the administration of public affairs he exhibited high qualities of honesty, clemency, patriotism, and ability.

“The judgment of mankind will accord to him an eminent place amongst the patriots and statesmen of the nation and the world.

Approved May 26, 1865.

The Hon. W. R. Kinney's speech on, *the Assassination of President Lincoln*, was delivered in the House of Representatives of Kentucky May 23, 1865. The *Frankfort Commonwealth* published it in part on May 30, on its first page. Excerpts follow:

“ . . . . Never once did Mr. Lincoln bleach the storm or waver in his determination to maintain that great principle of Union; the foundation stone upon which was erected the super structure of our government. His determination to preserve the unity of the nation and the indivisibility of its territory was the key to every order he entered, every proclamation he issued, and every law recommended by him for adoption by Congress. That this was the

great motive which would actuate him in all of his administrative acts, was foreshadowed in his modification of the order of Fremont and Hunter in 1861, and by the sentiments and declarations embodied in his subsequent letter to Mr. Greeley where he declared in substance that if, by the maintenance of the institution of slavery, he could best subserve the Union cause, he would in that event maintain it; but if by its abolishment he could more surely restore the Union, he would most assuredly abolish it. The theory, or rather may I not say the axiom of the necessity of the preserved integrity of the Union as the foundation from which flows all the beneficent privileges of our Government was the great underlying principle of his life.

“History has judged of the correctness of administrative acts of the rulers in times past, and will so judge them in time to come, by the results of the policy pursued. Mr. Lincoln’s friends need ask for him no departure from the historic rule past. They need ask no other criterion by which the judgments of men shall be governed in criticising him and his actions; and if the justice of this rule is accorded to him the future will crown his memory with a wreath of fame as unfading and undying, as were the pure aphorisms of patriotism which were ever welling up from the fountains of his own honest heart.”

The following anonymous poem was published on page one of the issue of June 1, 1865,

by the *Louisville Daily Journal* as a tribute to the fallen President. It may have been penned by Prentice and was entitled,

THE NATIONAL FAST, JUNE 1, 1865.

"No anthem of gladness,  
No joyous hozanna,  
We breathe forth to-day;  
The stars on our banner  
But dimly are shining;  
A nation is weeping  
For the pride of her sons  
In their sepulchre sleeping.

Yet nor for the martyr,  
Departed in glory,  
Fall the tears that are shed  
By the young and the hoary;  
Not for him who hath left  
A fame bright and undying,  
And pure as the snow-wreath  
On mountain-top lying.

For the country he loved  
With devotion untiring,  
For whose welfare he toil'd  
Till the hour of expiring;  
For the freeman, whose birthright  
So nobly he cherished,  
It is meet that we mourn,  
For their purest have perished.

We bow in the dust  
To the Lord, who hath smitten,  
But Lincoln's lov'd name  
And his deeds shall be written;  
Shall be echoed in song  
And recorded in story,  
And with Washington's live  
Undying in glory.

Oh Land of the West!  
Who thy sad watch art keeping,  
O'er the son of thy love  
Now arise from thy weeping!  
A morning will break,  
All radiant and glorious,  
And the martyr come forth,  
A conqueror, victorious!"

The death of Abraham Lincoln, more than a great national blow to progress and the orderly resumption of civil affairs in America, had a marked international aspect in that it was made the subject of addresses in many of the courts and legislative bodies of Europe.

Five speeches, emphatic tributes to the memory of Mr. Lincoln, were made on June 1, 1865, in both Houses of the English Parliament—one by Earl Russell, one by Earl Derby, one by Lord Stratfore De Redcliffe; one by Sir G. Grey for Lord Palmerston, the Prime Minister; and one by Benjamin Disraeli, who was later to become Prime Minister and the Earl of Beaconsfield—one of the great Victorians.

The *Louisville Daily Journal* printed portions of these on page one of its issue of Saturday, June 3, 1865. It quoted Mr. Disraeli saying:

“Under any circumstances we should have bewailed the catastrophe at Washington; under any circumstances we should have shuddered at the means by which it was accomplished. But in the character of the victim and even in the accessories of his last moments, there is something so homely and innocent that it takes the question as it were, out of all the pomp of history and the ceremonial of diplomacy—it touches the heart of nations and appeals to the domestic sentiment of mankind. (Cheers).

Whatever the various and varying opinions in this House, and in the country, generally, on the policy of the late President of the United States, all must agree that in one of the severest trials which ever tested the moral qualities of man, he fulfilled his duty with simplicity and strength.”  
(Cheers)

Under the general heading of *Tributes to Mr. Lincoln—Proceedings of the British Cabinet*, the *Louisville Daily Journal* published portions of the other addresses on Lincoln as follows:

#### Speech of Earl Russell.

“In the House of Lords, Earl Russell moved an address to the Queen, requesting that in any communication from the British government to the Government of the United States, expressing abhorrence and regret at the great crime committed in the assassination of the President, there might be expressed at the same time the sorrow and indignation felt by the House of Lords. Earl Russell continued as follows.

“In this case I am sure your lordships will feel entire sympathy with her Majesty, who has instructed me already to express to the Government of the United States, the shock which she felt at the intelligence of the great crime which has been committed. (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty has also been pleased to write a private letter to Mrs. Lincoln, (Cheers) expressive of

sympathy with that lady in her misfortune. (Cheers) I think that your lordships will agree with me that, in modern times, there has hardly been a crime committed so abhorrent to the feelings of every civilized person as the one I am now alluding to. (Hear, hear.) After the first election of Mr. Lincoln as President of the United States, he was re-elected to the same high position by the large majority of the people remaining faithful to the Government of the United States, and he was in the discharge of the duties of his office, having borne his faculties meekly, at the moment when an assassin attacked him at the theatre. There are circumstances connected with this crime, which, I think, aggravate its atrocity. President Lincoln was a man who though not conspicuous before his election, had since displayed a character of so much integrity, so much sincerity and straightforwardness, and at the same time of so much kindness, that if any one was able to alleviate the pain and animosities which prevailed during the period of civil war, I believe that Abraham Lincoln was that person."

"After alluding to the public course of Mr. Lincoln, Earl Russell said:

"I think we must all feel both sympathy with the United States in this great affliction, and also a hope that he who is now, according to the American Constitution, entrusted with the power of the late President may be able both on the one subject and on the other—both in respect of mercy



and leniency toward the conquerer and also with regard to the measures to be adopted for the new organization which the abolition of slavery will render requisite—to overcome all difficulties. I had, some time ago at the commencement of this contest, occasion to say that I did not believe that the great republic of America would perish in this war, and the noble lord at the head of the Government had lately occasion to disclaim on the part of the Government of this country any feeling of envy at the greatness and prosperity of the United States. The course which her Majesty's Government have had to pursue during this civil war has been one of great anxiety. Difficulties have occurred to us, and difficulties have also occurred to the Government of the United States, in maintaining the peaceful relations between the two countries; but these difficulties have always been treated with temper and moderation both on this side and the other side of the Atlantic. I trust that that temper and moderation may continue, and I can assure the House, that, as we have always been guided by the wish that the American Government and the American people should settle for themselves the conflict of arms without any interference or intervention, though we trust that the efforts to be made for restoring peace will be successful, and that the great republic of America will always flourish and enjoy the freedom it has hitherto enjoyed. (Hear, hear.)

## Earl Derby.

“Earl Derby followed in support of Earl Russell’s motion, although opposed to the unusual course proposed. He added:

“Whatever other misfortunes may have attended this atrocious crime, I hope that, at least one good effect may have resulted from it—namely, that the manner in which the news has been received in this country will satisfy the people of the United States that her Majesty’s subjects, one and all, deeply condemn the crime which has been committed, and deeply sympathize with the people of the United States in their feeling of horror at the assassination of their Chief Magistrate. (Hear, hear.) For the crime itself there is no palliation whatever to be offered.”

## Lord Stratfore De Redcliffe.

“Lord Stratfore de Redcliffe said:

“The crime of assassination is so utterly revolting to the hearts and feelings of Englishmen that we cannot wonder at the cry of horror and indignation with which the death of President Lincoln has been received in this country throughout the length and breadth of the land. The circumstances under which that atrocious crime was perpetrated could not but heighten the abhorrence with which the act itself is to be viewed. Whether we look to the private affliction caused by its commission, or to the public consequences which may flow from the catastrophe, our com-

passion on the one side, and our anxiety on the other, are naturally roused to the highest degree. It is not in my province to pronounce any kind of judgment on the qualities, the conduct, or the intentions of the late President of the United States. It would be unkind and unworthy not to give him credit for the best claims on our esteem and regret. But when I figure to myself the chief magistrate, the temporary sovereign of a great nation struck down by a sudden and dastardly blow in the presence of his astounded family, in the first moments of relaxation from the toils and severe anxieties of a great civil contest, and in the midst of those who gave him their admiring acclamations, every thought is lost in one overpowering sentiment of horror and disgust." (Hear, hear.)

"The motion having been put by the Lord Chancellor, was carried unanimously.

In the House of Commons.

"In the House of Commons, on the same day, Sir G. Grey, on behalf of Lord Palmerston [the Prime Minister], spoke at length in denunciation of the deed. He said:

"I wish it were possible for us to convey to the people of the United States an adequate idea of the depth and universality of the feeling which this sad event has occasioned in this country, that from the highest to the lowest there has been but one feeling entertained. Her Majesty's minister at Washington will, in obedience to the

Queen's command, convey to the Government of the United States the expression of the feelings of her Majesty and of her Government upon the deplorable events; and her Majesty, with that tender consideration which she has always evinced for sorrow and suffering in others, of whatever rank (cheers), has with her own hand written a letter to Mrs. Lincoln (loud cheers) conveying the heartfelt sympathy of a widow to a widow (renewed cheers), suffering under the calamity of having lost one suddenly cut off. (Cheers.) From every part of this country, from every class, but one voice has been heard, one of abhorrence to the crime, and of sympathy for and interest in the country, which has this great loss to mourn."

Further tributes to Abraham Lincoln, the martyr of sectional strife now appear in the Kentucky press in various forms. Here is one done in prose as a reminiscence published in the *Louisville Daily Journal* on page four of its issue of June 5, 1865.

### THE EMPTY WHITE HOUSE.

" . . . . Another gentleman whom I know, visited the President in high dudgeon one night. He was a newspaper proprietor, and one of his editors had been arrested.

" 'Mr. Lincoln,' he said, 'I have been off electioneering for your re-election, and in my absence you have had my editor ar-

rested. I won't stand it, sir. I have fought better administrations than yours.'

" 'Why, John,' said the President, 'I don't know much about it. I suppose your boys have been too enterprising. The fact is, I don't interfere with the press much, but I suppose I am responsible.'

" 'I want you to order the man's release to-night,' said the applicant. 'I shan't leave here until I get it. In fact, I am the man who should be arrested. Why don't you send me to Capitol Hill?'

" 'This idea pleased the President exceedingly. He laughed the other into good humor.

" 'In fact,' he said, 'I am under restraint here, and am glad of any pretext to release a journalist.'

" 'So he wrote the order, and the writer got his liberty.

" 'It must not be inferred from this, however, that the President was a devotee to literature. He had no professional enthusiasm for it. The literary coterie of the White House got little flattery, but its members were treated as agreeable citizens, and not as the architects of anybody's fortune.

" 'Willis went there much for a while, but yielded to his old habit of gossiping about the hall paper and tea-pots. Emerson went there once, and was deferred to as if he were anything but a philosopher. Yet he so far grasped the character of his host as to indite that noble humanitarian eulogy upon him, delivered at Concord. It will



not do to say definitely in this notice how several occasional writers visited the White House, heard the President's views, and assented to them, and afterward abused him. But these attained no remembrance nor tart reproach from that least retaliatory of men. He harbored no malice, and is said to have often placed himself on the standpoint of Davis and Lee, and accounted for their defection, while he could not excuse it.

"He was a good reader, and took all the leading New York dailies every day. His secretaries perused them and selected all the items which would interest the President; these were read to him and considered. He bought few new books, but seemed ever alive to works of comic value; the vein of humor in him was not boisterous in its manifestations, but touched the geniality of his nature, and he reproduced all that he absorbed, to elucidate some new issue, or turn away argument by a laugh.

"As a jester, Mr. Lincoln's tendency was caricatured by the prints, but not exaggerated. He probably told as many stories as are attributed to him. Nor did he, as is averred, indulge in these jests on solemn occasions. No man felt with such personal intensity the extent of the casualties of his time, and he often gravely reasoned whether he could be in any way responsible for the bloodshed and devastation over which it was his duty to preside.

"An acquaintance of mine—a printer—once went to him to plead for a man's life.



He had never seen the man he pleaded for, and had no acquaintance with the man's family. Mr. Lincoln was touched by his disinterestedness, and said to him:

“‘If I were anything but the President, I would be constantly working as you have done.’

“‘Whenever a doubt of one's guilt lay on his mind, the man was spared by his direct interference.

“‘There was an entire absence in the President's character of the heroic element. He would do a great deed in *deshabille* as promptly as in full dress. He never aimed to be brilliant, unconsciously understanding that a great man's brilliancy is to be measured by the “wholeness” and synthetic cast of his career rather than by any fitful ebullitions. For this reason we look in vain through his messages for “points”. His point was not to turn a sentence or an epigram, but to win an effect, regardless of the route to it.

“‘He was commonplace in his talk, and Chesterfield would have had no patience with him; his dignity of character lay in his uprightness, rather than in his formal manner. Members of his government often reviewed him plainly in his own presence. Yet he divined the true course, while they only argued it out.

“‘His good feeling was not only personal, but national. He had no prejudice against any race or potentate. And his democracy was of a practical, rather than a demonstra-

tive, nature. He was no Marat, but Moreau—not Paine and Jefferson, but Franklin.

“His domestic life was like a parlor of night time, lit by the equal grace of his genial and uniform kindness. Young Thaddy played with him upon the carpet; Robert came home from the war and talked to his father as a schoolmate. He was to Mrs. Lincoln as chivalrous on the last day of his life as when he courted her. I have somewhere seen a picture of Henry IV of France, riding his babies on his back; that was the President.

“So dwelt the citizen who is gone—a model in character if not in ceremony, for good men to come who will take his place in this same White House, and find their generation comparing them to the man thought worthy of assassination. I aimed to sit here in his chair, where he has been so often, in the atmosphere of the household he purified, in the sight of the green grass and the one river he hallowed by gazing upon, in the very center of the nation he preserved for the people, and close the list of bloody deeds, of desperate fights, of swift explanations of renowned obsequies which I have written, by indicting at his table the goodness of his life and the eternity of his memory.

George Alfred Townsend.”

Finding insufficient contributed material to honor the lately deceased President of the United States, Prentice, now an unbounded

Lincoln enthusiast, as were practically all of the other editors of any particular note in Kentucky, took his shears and paste-pot and gave on page four of the *Daily Journal to Louisville*, the metropolis of the Commonwealth, on June 8, 1865, the following not unmeritorious poem.

## A TRIBUTE TO MR. LINCOLN

“We copy from the *Baltimore American* the following just and eloquent tribute by Christopher C. Cox, Lieutenant-Governor of Maryland, to the late President. Mr. Cox enjoyed the friendship, and was one of the best friends of Mr. Lincoln.

### OUR DEAD.

“Dead? Is he dead?

The nation's own President—he who today  
Lived, breathed, and acted—whose generous sway  
Won o'er the hearts of the loyal and true,  
As he fought the great fight of his country all through,  
Dead? Is he dead?

Startling the tale!

Not on his couch in the White House he lies,  
Not of disease the great patriot dies,  
Not by strange accident stopping his breath;  
Alas! none of these have consigned him to death,  
Startling the tale!

Whence fell the stroke?

Stifling a life in its power and its pride—  
A life for which thousands would freely have died—  
A life the great nation so poorly could spare—  
A life in whose deeds the whole world had a share—  
Whence fell the stroke?

Tell the sad tale—

Waft it, ye swift winds from city to plain,  
Speed it, ye lightnings, from ocean to main,  
Tell to the nation that he, their great head,  
By the red hand of murder lies bleeding and dead!  
Tell the sad tale.

Palsied the hand  
 That pointed the weapon—accursed the heart  
 That prompted a crime at which devils may start—  
 And twice cursed the cause from which sprung the dark  
     deed,  
 A natural shoot, as the fruit from the seed.  
     Palsied the hand.

Speak to all hearts;  
 Tell it in cottage, and tell it in hall,  
 The mighty hath fallen! The funeral pall  
 Lies draped o'er the form of the noblest and best—  
 A statesman, a hero hath gone to his rest;  
     Speak to all hearts.

Hear—brave and true—  
 Curb the joy on your lips for the triumph ye've won,  
 Exult not a while in the era begun;  
 Pause—weep bitter tears for the patriot gone,  
 Who led you through trial and victory on—  
     Hear—brave and true.

Listen, ye false;  
 Mantle your cheeks with hot blushes  
 Low bow your heads at the sound of his name;  
 Recall your dark treason and tremble to know  
 You nerved the foul murder's arm for the blow!  
     Listen, ye false.

Toll the deep bell—  
 In symbols of grief throw the flag from its place,  
 Festoon cot and mansion from roof-top to base,  
 While thousands, with solemn, funeral tread,  
 'Mid silence and sorrow, bear slowly the dead—  
     Toll the deep bell.

He needs no tear.  
 Our banner droops low—our sky has grown dim—  
 We lament for ourselves, but oh! friends, not for him.  
 Ripe with honors, his name by a million hearts blest,  
 The great work accomplished, he goes to his rest.  
     He needs no tear.

There—let him sleep,  
 In his far distant home, where a poor boy he came,  
 And won by his worth the proud title to fame;  
 And the Mount Vernon, his grave in all time,  
 And Mecca for pilgrims of every clime.  
     There—let him sleep.

The seal has been set—  
Go, bend o'er the turf where he slumbers alone,  
And "Abraham Lincoln" carved deep in the stone;  
The mortal remains turn to dust where they lie,  
But the noble old President never can die!

The seal has been set.

C. C. Cox."

Thus mirrored in the public press of his day and time, *back home* in his own, his native state of Kentucky, stands America's colossal figure—Abraham Lincoln. From the humblest position he arose to the highest by the sheer strength of his own mentality and principles. From the most absolute personal obscurity he attained the greatest official prominence. Man of Destiny, man of the ages, the Emancipator of the ignorant or the learned as one may choose, he remains the vital personification, the one strongly motivating human force in the preservation of the United States as a great country stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf during those darkest days of 1860—1865.

The yellowing pages of Kentucky's Civil War newspapers tell the richly romantic story of Abraham Lincoln. From them one may glean not only the march of great events in the movement of which Lincoln was the principle actor, but here one may see the pathos, the humor, the fear, the hostility, the tragedy, the respect, the reverence and finally the adulation that was his—each in no uncertain or inconsequential

measure.

Kentucky—as the printed record goes—was slow, very slow, to accept Lincoln, her greatest son. She was reluctant and unwilling to appreciate, to understand him while he lived. The profound contradictions of his personality and his career were largely enigmatic to his own people during his brief life span. Only when the Angel of Death, holding the assassin's hand had taken him suddenly, his life work ended—back into that mysterious realm from which he had arisen so opportunely and so majestically, were the bandages of sectional prejudice and misunderstanding torn from the eyes of the people of Kentucky to reveal Lincoln towering in simple greatness above the strife of the battlefield and forum, the man of men, America's supreme gift to the unfolding, liberty-loving civilization of the world.



*“And men walked  
One with the other even as spirits do—  
None fawned, none trampled; hate, disdain, or fear,  
Self-love or self-contempt, on human brows  
No more inscribed, as o’er the gate of hell,  
“All hope abandon, ye who enter here.”  
None frowned, none trembled, none with eager fear  
Gazed on another’s eye of cold command——”*

PROMETHEUS: SHELLEY.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents—1789:1897. Vol. VI. Abraham Lincoln* by James D. Richardson. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, 1897.
- Abraham Lincoln* by Albert J. Beveridge. Two vols. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1928.
- Abraham Lincoln's Pen and Voice* compiled by G. M. Van Buren, 435 pp. Robert Clark & Co. Cincinnati. 1890.
- Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky of 1865.* Frankfort, 1865.
- Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln* by John G. Nicolay and John Hay, 4 vols. F. D. Tandy, New York, 1905.
- History of Kentucky.* Charles Kerr, editor. Vol. II. The American Historical Society, Chicago and New York, 1922.
- Kentucky: A Pioneer Commonwealth* by Nathaniel Southgate Shaler. 433 pp. Houghton, Mifflin Co. Boston, 1885.
- Kentucky in the Nation's History* by Robert McNutt McElroy. 590 pp. Moffat, Yard and Co. New York, 1909.
- Lincoln and His Wife's Home Town* by William H. Townsend. 402 pp. Bobbs-Merrill Co. Indianapolis, 1929.
- (*On the Assassination of Lincoln*) by Benjamin Disraeli (Earl of Beaconsfield) printed in *Papers Relating to Foreign Affairs Accompanying the Annual Message of the President*, etc. Part I. pp. 342-343. Govt. Print. Office, Washington, 1866.
- The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky* by E. Merton Coulter. 468 pp. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1926.
- The Frankfort Commonwealth*, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1861-1865.
- The History and Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln* by William H. Herndon. Three vols. Herndon's Lincoln Pub. Co., Springfield, Ill. Orig. Ed. 1888.
- The Kentucky Statesman*, Lexington, Kentucky. 1859.
- The Frankfort Yoeman*, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1860.
- The Lexington Observer and Reporter*, Lexington, Kentucky, 1860-1865.

*The Louisville Daily Courier*, Louisville, Kentucky, 1860-1865.

*The Louisville Daily Democrat*, Louisville, Kentucky, 1865.

*The Louisville Daily Journal*, Louisville, Kentucky, 1860-1865.

*The Louisville Daily Union Press*, Louisville, Kentucky, 1865.

*The Life of Abraham Lincoln* by Ida M. Tarbell, 4 vols.  
(Sangamon Edition) Lincoln History Society, New York,  
1924. Previous editions by various publishers, 1895, 1896,  
1898, 1899, 1900 and 1917.

# INDEX





# INDEX

## A

Abolitionist, 9, 39  
 Adair County, 86  
 Administration, 42, 95  
 African Slave trade, 6  
 Alabama, 24  
 Albany, 99  
 Anderson, Major, 41, 57  
 Anglo-Saxon, 15  
 Appomattox, 72  
 Ashmead, M., 78

## B

Baker, George, 109  
 Baltimore American, 153  
 Bancroft, George, 124, 134  
 Banks, 3  
 Bates, 5  
 Bell, 5  
 Bell, T. S., 102, 109  
 Bible, The, 71  
 Bijur, Martin, 109  
 Bluegrass Region, 37  
 Booth, John Wilkes, 94, 100  
 Boston, 42  
 Botts, 5  
 Boyle, General, 57  
 Bragg, General, 49, 67  
 Bramlette, Gov. T. E., 51, 53,  
     54, 56, 60, 61, 64, 66, 86, 87,  
     88, 102, 114, 116, 130, 136,  
     137  
 Breckinridge, John C., 10, 12,  
     17, 18, 40  
 British Cabinet, 143  
 Buell, 49

## C

Carpenter, F. B., 128  
 Charleston, 42, 132  
 Chase, 3, 58  
 Christ, 106  
 Cincinnati, 4, 5  
 Cincinnati Gazette, 68, 98  
 Chronicle, The, 69  
 Civil, L. A., 102  
 Clay, Cassius M., 9  
 Clay, Henry, 1, 38, 39, 40  
 Clay, John M., 38  
 Clift, G. Glenn, x  
 Colfax, M., 78, 79  
 Columbia, 22  
 Commercial Advertiser, The,  
     115  
 Commonwealth, the, 44, 85, 86,  
     89, 97, 98, 109, 114, 115,  
     116, 121, 130, 134, 135, 139  
 Congress, 6, 61  
 Constitution, 1, 38, 45, 59, 64, 97  
 Covington, Ky., 54, 55  
 Cox, Christopher C., 153  
 Crittenden, John J., 20, 39, 49

## D

Davis, Jefferson, 31, 43, 44  
 Deitzman, E. D., 109  
 Derby, Earl, 142, 146  
 Dillard, Florence, ix  
 Disraeli, Benjamin, 142  
 Dix, Maj. Gen., 100  
 "Dixie," 68  
 Douglas, Fred, 69

Douglas, Stephen A., 1, 3, 12  
 Drury, Elizabeth, x  
 Dutch Republic, 104, 106

## E

Edwards, Capt. N. W., 136  
 English Parliament, 131, 142  
 Europe, 130, 131  
 Evening Post, 126

## F

Fillmore, 33  
 Ford's Theatre, 75  
 Fort Sumter, 41, 42, 44, 83  
 France, 118  
 Frankfort, 44  
 Frankfort Yeoman, 20, 21, 22,  
     24, 26, 98  
 Fremont, 33

## G

General Assembly, 56, 60, 138  
 Gist, Governor, 22  
 Goodloe, Kemp, 109  
 Grant, Gen. U. S., 66, 72, 75  
 Great Britain, 40  
 Greeley, 3, 140  
 Grey, Sir G., 142, 147  
 Guthrie, James, 102

## H

Harding, Ella T., ix  
 Harlan, E. B. Capt., 86  
 Harlan, James, 87  
 Harlan, Justice John M., 31  
 Harris, Miss., 99  
 Harris, Senator, 79, 99  
 Harrison, General, 93  
 Harvey, Col. Selby, 84  
 Hay, Mary Belle Taylor, x  
 Hebrew, 105  
 Henry the Fourth, 118

Hodges, M., 55  
 Hodgenville, Ky., xi  
 Huston, Gen. John B., 52, 53

## I

Illinois, 3, 4, 9  
 Israel, 105  
 Italian Chamber of Deputies,  
     131

## J

Jacob, R. T., 31, 54, 55  
 Jefferson, 24  
 Johnson, 49  
 Johnson, Andrew, 68, 80, 96,  
     108, 120, 126  
 Johnson, J. H., 44  
 Jillson, W. R., ii, v, vi

## K

Kaye, William, Mayor, 89, 101  
 Kentucky Statesman, 2, 4  
 Kinney's, W. R., 139  
 Knox, William, 129

## L

Lane, General Joe, 10  
 Lee, General, 67, 73  
 Lexington Observer and Re-  
     porter, 52, 53, 54, 59, 60,  
     69, 72, 98  
 Lexington, Kentucky, 37, 69  
 Lincoln's Death, opp. 30  
 Lincoln, Mary Todd, 37, 80, 81,  
     100, 136, 143, 148  
 Lincoln, Capt. Robert, 136  
 Lincoln, "Tad," 127  
 Lincoln, Willie, 74  
 Louisville, Kentucky, 109, 114  
 Louisville Times, 81  
 Louisville Courier, 10, 12, 29,  
     36, 40, 42, 98

Louisville Daily Democrat, 89,  
101

Louisville Daily Union Press,  
58, 98, 135

Louisville Journal, 2, 64, 74, 76,  
97, 119, 122, 124, 126, 141,  
142, 143, 148, 153

Luther, Martin, 120

## M

Magoffin, Governor Beriah, 20,  
25, 26, 39, 45, 49, 57

Major, S. I. M. Jr., 20, 25, 26

Marshall, 49

Maryland, 28, 125, 153

Masons, 109

Michigan, 4

Mississippi River, 27, 66

Missouri, 125

Mittler, E., 109

Morgan, John H., 50

Moses, 92

Murray, Eli H., 57

McClellan, General, 49, 52

## N

Negro Democracy, 8

Nelson, General, 57

Netherlands, 106

New Jersey, 75

New York, 42, 44

New York Herald, 115

New York Post, 115

New York Times, 115

New York Tribune, 115

New York World, 115

## O

Odd Fellows, 109

Orange, William of, 106

Oregon, 10

## P

Paine, 53

Palmer, John M., 57, 65, 85, 86,  
102

Palmerson, Lord, 131, 142, 147

Paris, France, 131

Pennsylvania, 41

Perryville, 50

Philadelphia, 28, 58

Pickins, Governor, 41

Prentice, G. D., 64, 102, 119,  
141, 152

Prometheus, 1, 49

## Q

Queen (of England), 131

## R

Raible, Mrs., 136

Rathbone, Major, 79, 99

Ravaiillac, 118

Red Cliffe, Lord, 142, 146

Richmond, 67, 72, 73

Richmond Whig, 2, 122

Robinson, Governor, 57

Russell, Earl, 142, 143, 144

Rutledge, Ann, 129

## S

Scotch, 129

Seward, W. H., 3, 41, 60, 83

Seemion, 30

Sheridan, General, 72

Sherman, General, 67

Simpson, Bishop, 130

Simpson, Josephine, 39

Smith, 49

South Carolina, 13

Spain, 106

Springfield, Ill., 130, 132

Stanton, E. M., 81, 100

State Neutrality, 25  
 State Sovereignty, 24  
 St. Louis, 66  
 Sumner, 3  
 Swayne, Mr., 127

## T

Taney, Chief Justice, 58  
 Taylor, General, 93  
 Tennessee, 49, 67, 125  
 Thirteenth Amendment, 65  
 Todd, Dr. L. B., 136  
 Townsend, G. A., 152  
 Townsend, John Wilson, x  
 Townsend, William Henry, vii  
 Turners, 109

## U

Union, 1, 5, 7, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31,  
     35, 38, 42, 44, 45, 62, 66, 73,  
     77, 110, 126, 132, 133  
 Union League, 58  
 United States, 6, 27, 30, 42, 43,  
     59, 60, 100, 134, 137, 146

## V

VanMeter, Pauline H., ix  
 Vicksburg, 66  
 Virginia, 67  
 Vissher, Nina, x  
 Vogt, William, 109

## W

Wade, 3  
 Washington, 24, 38, 43, 58, 66,  
     77, 96, 124, 147  
 Washington Star, 100  
 Whig, 1, 3, 38  
 Willard's Hotel, 36  
 Wilson, 3  
 Wilson, Woodrow, 82  
 Wolford, Col., 55

## Y

"Yankee Land," 68  
 "You Kentuckians," 4











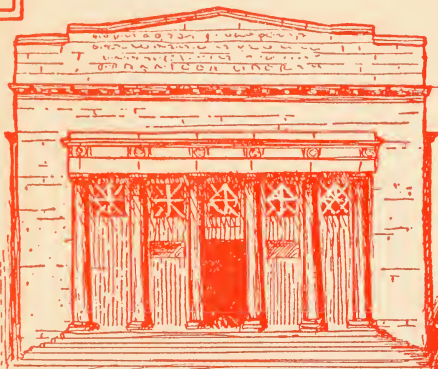
FRANKFORT



# LINCOLN IN THE



LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE  
THREE MILES SOUTH OF HODGENVILLE



LINCOLN MEMORIAL  
NEAR HODGENVILLE

MORGANFIELD

CLOVERPORT

THE DAILY PRESS  
OFFICE-- PRESS BUILDING  
NO. 1920  
JEFFERSON STREET  
LOUISVILLE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1865

GOD HAVE MERCY!  
MURDER IN THE CAPITAL!  
Treason Slays the Nation's Hero  
PRESIDENT LINCOLN  
ASSASSINATED  
SECRETARY SEWARD  
ASSASSINATED!

WILLIAM LINCOLN, "THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR," HAS BEEN ASSASSINATED IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, APRIL 14, 1865. THE NEWS OF HIS DEATH HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN LOUISVILLE, KY., APRIL 15, 1865. THE PEOPLE OF LOUISVILLE ARE GRIEVED BY THE LOSS OF THE GREAT MAN WHO HAS FREED THE SLAVES OF THE SOUTH. THE DAILY PRESS HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO THE REPORTING OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE CAPITAL. THE PEOPLE OF LOUISVILLE ARE GRIEVED BY THE LOSS OF THE GREAT MAN WHO HAS FREED THE SLAVES OF THE SOUTH. THE DAILY PRESS HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO THE REPORTING OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE CAPITAL.

LOUISVILLE  
APRIL 19, 1865  
THE DAILY PRESS  
OFFICE-- PRESS BUILDING  
NO. 1920  
JEFFERSON STREET  
LOUISVILLE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1865

LOUISVILLE  
APRIL 19, 1865  
THE DAILY PRESS  
OFFICE-- PRESS BUILDING  
NO. 1920  
JEFFERSON STREET  
LOUISVILLE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1865

LOUISVILLE



A Lincoln



# KENTUCKY PRESS

CINCINNATI

1860-1865

HODGENVILLE

LOUISVILLE

LEXINGTON

HODGENVILLE

LY UN

CLOTHING  
DEN MASON  
TAILORS  
CL. DR.  
ATTOR

Lexington Observer & Reporter  
SEMI-WEEKLY  
Published at Lexington, Ky.

ASSISTANT  
OF THE  
PRESIDENT

STOCK  
DOGS

NOTHING

COPIES

PROFITS



"EMANCIPATOR"



Abraham Lincoln Book Shop  
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

Gribbin

